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Magical Miracle™

Volume 3

YUZU MIZUTANI

TOKYOPOP®

MAGICAL
MIRACLE

Magical Miracle

Volume 3

By
Yuzu Mizutani

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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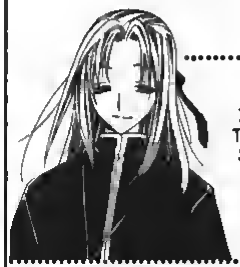
VAITH
A LOYAL FOLLOWER OF THE MASTER WIZARD AS WELL AS CAPTAIN OF THE BLACK KNIGHTS. HANDSOME AND DECEPTIVELY SMOOTH.

FERN
THE MOST FEISTY AND RUDE OF ALL THE MASTER WIZARD'S FOLLOWERS.



GLENN
IN ADDITION TO SERVING THE MASTER WIZARD, THIS SWEET PRIEST PROVIDES EDUCATION TO MANY OF THE TOWN'S CHILDREN.

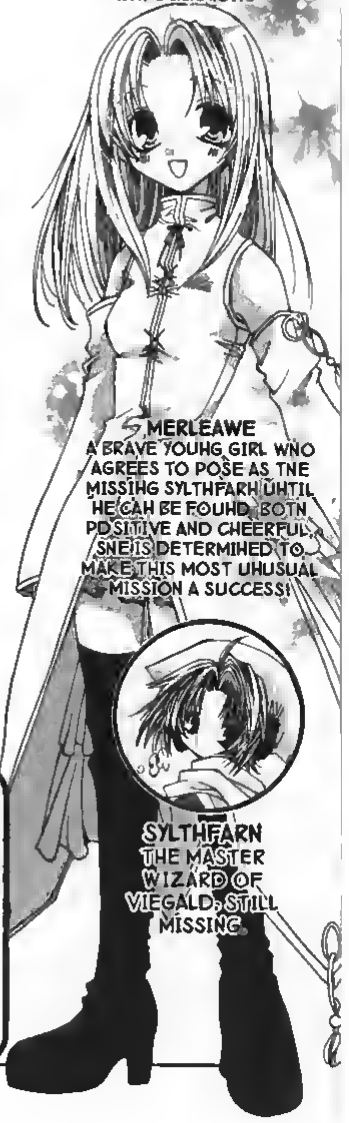
YUE
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MAGIC DEPARTMENT, HE CONSIDERS IT HIS DUTY TO BE VERY STRICT WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

STORY

JUST AS SHE BEGAN TO STUDY MAGIC, MERLEAWE WAS CALLED UPON TO POSE AS SYLTHFARN, THE MASTER WIZARD OF THE KINGDOM OF VIEGALD, SINCE SHE BEARS SUCH A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO HIM. CAUGHT UP IN A WORLD SHE DOES NOT KNOW, SHE NOW STRUGGLES TO DO HER BEST IMPERSONATION, WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF SYLTHFARN'S FOLLOWERS. HOPING AND PRAYING THAT SHE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING, SHE BATTLES INTENSE FEELINGS OF GUILT FOR HAVING TO LIE TO SO MANY, EVEN IF FOR A GOOD CAUSE...

Magical Miracle

Character Introductions



MERLEAWE
A BRAVE YOUNG GIRL WHO AGREES TO POSE AS THE MISSING SYLTHFARN UNTIL HE CAN BE FOUND. BOTH POSITIVE AND CHEERFUL, SHE IS DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS MOST UNUSUAL MISSION A SUCCESS!

SYLTHFARN
THE MASTER WIZARD OF VIEGALD, STILL MISSING.

Episode.17

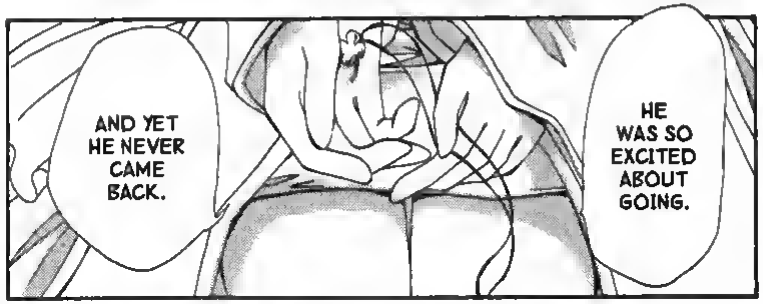
WHAT A HAND-SOME MAN HE IS...
YOU KNOW...
MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND SERVED UNDER THAT MAN WHEN HE WAS IN THE BLACK KNIGHTS.
EH?

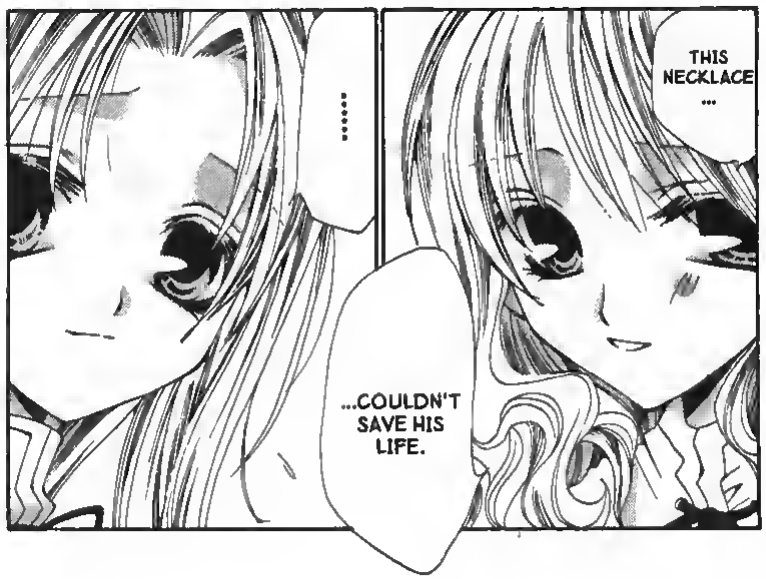
OH. YES. BUT NO, WE WEREN'T IN LOVE.
HUH ?!
DID YOU CARE FOR HIM GREATLY?
HE AND I GREW UP TOGETHER LIKE BROTHER AND SISTER.
HE HAD A MATCHING ONE WHEN HE GAVE THIS TO ME.
HERE ..
...LOOK AT THIS.
IT WAS HIS VERY FIRST FIGHT.
HE SPOKE ABOUT IT IN A TONE I'D NEVER HEARD BEFORE.
...IF THE OTHER HALF'S SAFE WITH YOU.
I FEEL CERTAIN I'LL COME BACK SAFELY..

BUT HE NEVER HAD ANY LUCK. HE DIED IN BATTLE, YOU SEE.
OH?
YOUR FRIEND WAS ONE OF HIS SOLDIERS, HUH?
MM-HMM...
I AM SO SORRY.
HE WAS KILLED DURING THAT CONFLICT
DO YOU REMEMBER... ...THE UPRISING OF SELBA?
FORGIVE ME FOR TELLING YOU SUCH A DEPRESSING TALE.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING YOU UNNECESSARY... AND PAINFUL QUESTIONS

I CAN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHAT WAS SAID.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES...
...THEY EXPLAINED IT TO ME TELLING ME HOW HE FOUGHT AND DIED.
LATER, A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL CAME TO NOTIFY ME.
"MR. ALFRED FOUGHT BRAVELY."
"HE WAS AN ADMIRABLE SOLDIER RIGHT UP TO THE VERY END."
...I KNEW ONLY THOSE WHO HAD BEEN WITH HIM WHEN HE FELL WOULD TRULY KNOW WHAT IT HAD BEEN LIKE.
I DIDN'T WANT OR NEED...
...SUCH USELESSLY FORMAL AND NOBLE WORDS.

GUESS WHAT!
I'LL BE FINE! I'M IN THE GROUP WITH CAPTAIN VAITH!
ARE YOU SURE?
OF COURSE! IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO FOLLOW HIM!
WHY ARE YOU BOASTING ABOUT THIS TO ME?

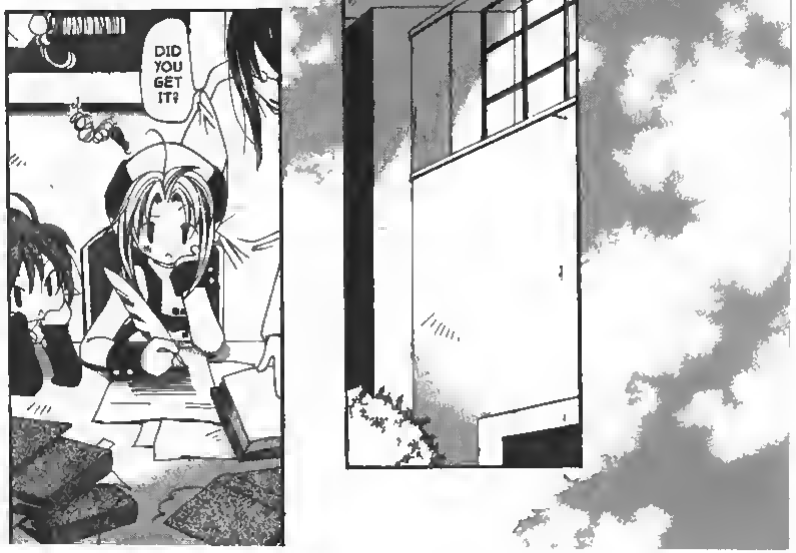

HE WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT GOING.
AND YET HE NEVER CAME BACK.


THIS NECKLACE...
.....
...COULDN'T SAVE HIS LIFE.

HEY, VAITH?
IS IT TRUE YOU TOOK PART IN THE MILITARY OPERATION THAT HALTED THE UPRISING OF SELBA?
EH?
M--
MER-LEAWE!
COME WITH ME!
WHAT?
WHAT?
BRAG BRAG

YES, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HEAR THE TRUTH FROM HIM.
CAPTAIN VAITH MUST KNOW EVERYTHING THAT I'VE LONGED TO LEARN.

I SEE.
VAITH KNOWS...
...HE KNOWS WHAT SHE DESERVES TO KNOW.


DID YOU GET IT?

DON'T EVER TALK ABOUT IT!
IT'S NOT SOMETHING VAITH WANTS TO REMEMBER.
Whisper
WHERE IN THE WORLD DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT?
EH? WELL...
FERN!!
UH OH!
DON'T SAY ANYTHING UNNECESSARY!

I WON'T...
YUE ISN'T IT TIME FOR OUR MEETING?
YES.
JEEZ!
TALK ABOUT AWKWARD!
BUT I AM CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT IRKED VAITH SO.
NO! FORGIVE ME!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.
YOU FORGIVE ME FOR NOT FINISHING THE STORY, RIGHT?
WAH!!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO SO NERVOUS ABOUT?
Vaith would kill me if I told you more.

IT'S TRUE THAT VAITH SERVED AS A CAPTAIN DURING THAT TIME.
OH...
"DON'T SAY ANYTHING UNNECESSARY!"
...
...SAYING ANYTHING!
WELL, I'M NOT THE ONE...
THE UPRISING OF SELBA?

GLENN!
WHEN DID YOU COME IN?
YES?
WELL..
YEAH. LIKE THAT MAKES ME FEEL ANY BETTER.
EH?
...BOTH RAN OFF.
I GUESS YUE AND VAITH...

PEOPLE THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT ONLY THE CAPTAIN SURVIVED.
SOME BEGAN TO WHISPER ...
THEY SAID THAT HE HAD RUN OUT ON HIS MEN!
AND WORSE,
THAT HE HAD USED HIS MEN AS A SHIELD.
IT WAS CALLOUS
...THINKING THE SAME THING OF VAITH?!
COULD SHE BE...
HOW UNFAIR! VAITH WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING!
Gasp!

HE ALONE SURVIVED.
VAITH LOST A GOOD MANY MEN...
...DURING THOSE RIOTS.
..THE CAPTAIN...
BUT BECAUSE VAITH WAS...
MANY MILITARY UNITS WERE DESTROYED.
IT WAS WAR.
...HE WAS THE TARGET OF HARSH GOSSIP.

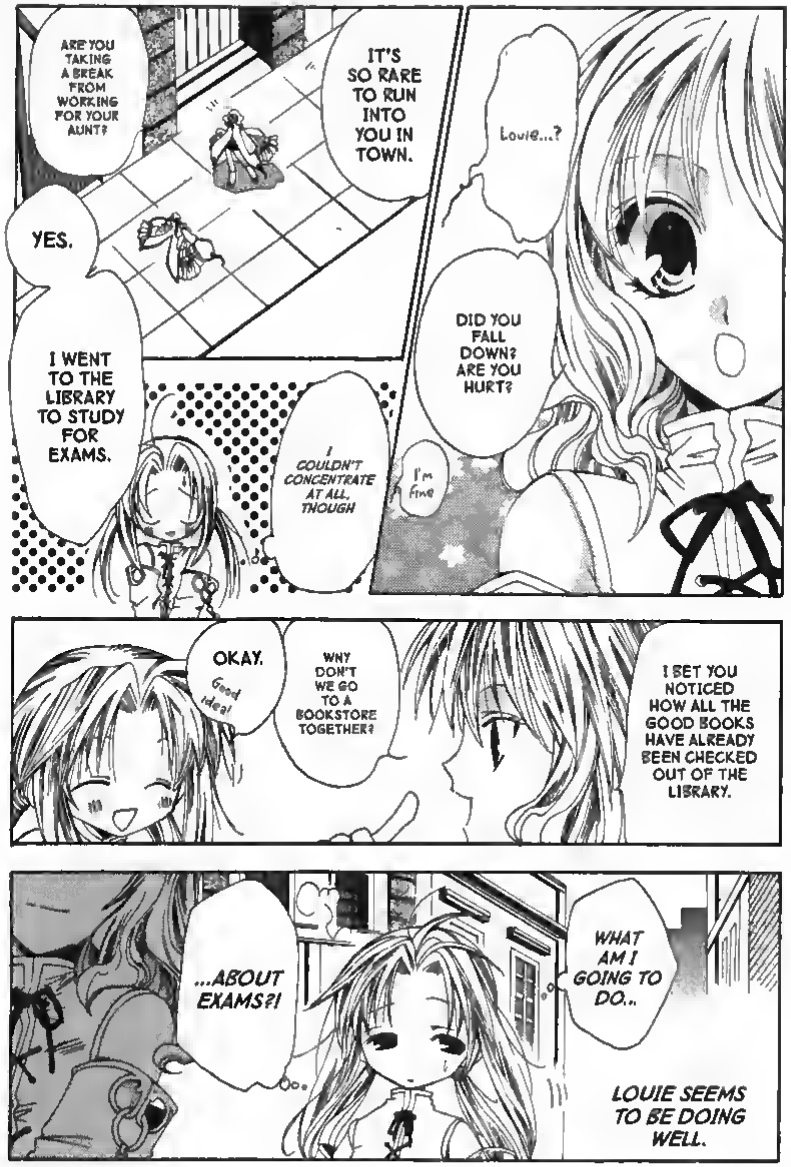
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE ...
Shh.
BUT YOU SHOULD NEVER SAY THOSE WORDS ALOUD.
...THAT VAITH WOULD DO SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS.
FERN...
PEOPLE ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW HIM LIKE I DO!
HUH?
WHY ARE YOU SMILING, MEL?
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT VAITH--EVEN THOUGH HE TALKS AS THOUGH HE'S NOT.
IT'S NOT STUPID!
YOU MUST BE THINKING STUPID THINGS AGAIN.

THEY CAN NEVER UNDER-STAND WHAT VAITH WENT THROUGH!
THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED THAT GOSSIP MUST'VE LOVED CAUSING HARM TO OTHERS!
EITHER THEY LOVED SLANDER OR COULDN'T ACCEPT THEIR LOSSES WITHOUT BLAMING SOMEBODY
FERN?
FERN...
DON'T YOU AGREE?
I CAN'T FAULT YOU...
...FOR FEELING THAT WAY.

I ALSO BELIEVE ...
...THE RUMORS TO BE FALSE. VAITH IS FAR TOO HONEST A PERSON.
Sigh.
IT'S CAUSE HE'S SO HONEST HE CAN'T FORGIVE HIS MISTAKE
HE'S THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
I guess whatever he says is the truth
WELL...
WHAT? I'M ONLY STATING THE OBVIOUS!
You sound so cruel...!
FERN!
OH!
I DO REMEMBER THAT'S WHEN...
...VAITH STARTED DYING HIS HAIR.
HE DYES HIS HAIR?!
WHAT?!
YOU NEED NOT WORRY.
I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.
WELL, I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER THAT?!

Episode.18

HE USED TO HAVE...
...SUCH BEAUTIFUL WHITE HAIR.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN IT...
...SINCE HE WENT OFF TO FIGHT THAT WAR.


ARE YOU TAKING A BREAK FROM WORKING FOR YOUR AUNT?
IT'S SO RARE TO RUN INTO YOU IN TOWN.
Louie...?
YES.
I WENT TO THE LIBRARY TO STUDY FOR EXAMS.
I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE AT ALL, THOUGH
DID YOU FALL DOWN? ARE YOU HURT?
I'm fine
OKAY.
Good idea!
WHY DON'T WE GO TO A BOOKSTORE TOGETHER?
I BET YOU NOTICED HOW ALL THE GOOD BOOKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CHECKED OUT OF THE LIBRARY.
...ABOUT EXAMS?!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO..
LOUIE SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL.

POOR LOUIE'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND WAS NOT SO LUCKY
VAITH WAS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF HIS UNIT DURING THE UPRISING...
AH!
OWWW
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING FOR MY EXAMS LIKE THIS?
Dof
NTREE TUITE
OH...
MEL?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

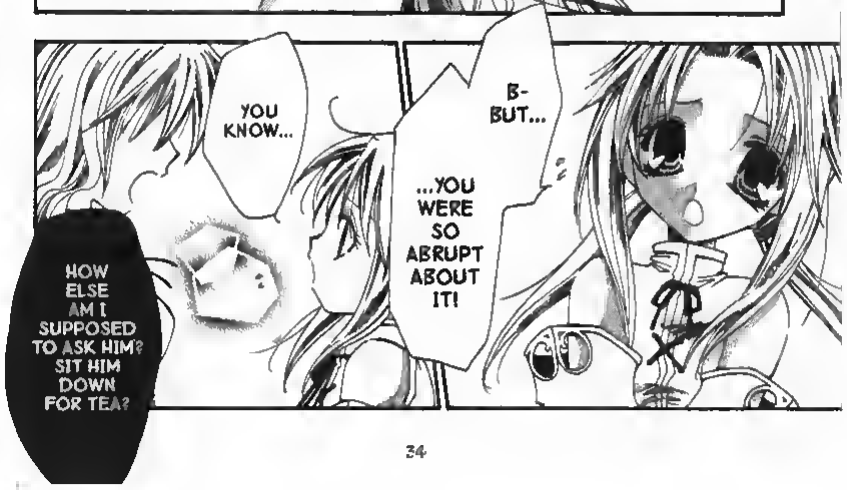
DID YOU EVER KNOW A MAN NAMED ALFRED?
EXCUSE ME!
OH NOOO!! SHE ASKED HIM!!
LOUIE?! NO!
!!

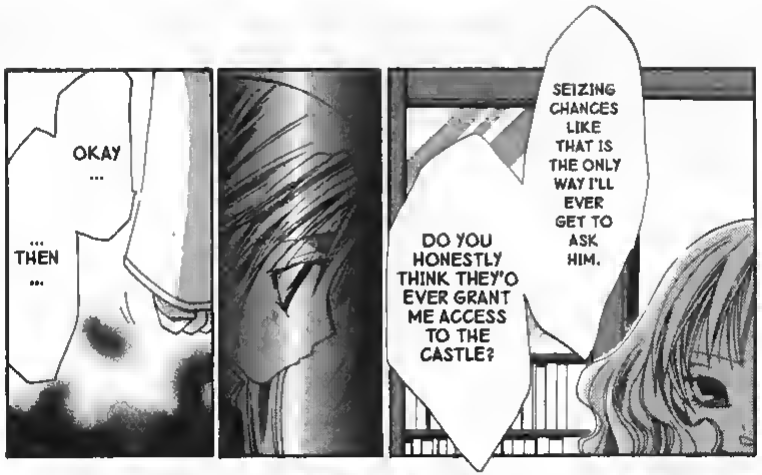
ERK!!
AH!
EH?
HAVE A NICE DAY!
SEE YA!
THANKS!
Louie?!
WHY IS VAITH HERE?!
GAH!

LOUIE !!
Hey! Listen!
EH?!
WHAT AM I TO DO?!
GOOD-BYE!
THE BOOK-STORE! IT WILL CLOSE SOON! HURRY!
WHAT...? ME?
WELL...

JEEZ, MEL!
WHY DID YOU INTER-RUPT ME?!
I COULON'T CONFRONT HIM LAST TIME BECAUSE THERE WERE TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND US.

TODAY WAS THE BEST CHANCE I'VE HAD TO ASK HIM!


B-BUT...
...YOU WERE SO ABRUPT ABOUT IT!
YOU KNOW...
HOW ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO ASK HIM? SIT HIM DOWN FOR TEA?


OKAY ...
... THEN ...
SEIZING CHANCES LIKE THAT IS THE ONLY WAY I'LL EVER GET TO ASK HIM.
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THEY'O EVER GRANT ME ACCESS TO THE CASTLE?

So please! Let me!
I PROMISE TO ASK HIM ABOUT MR. ALFRED!
MY GRANO-FATHER'S FRIENO'S BIG BROTHER'S SON...
...WORKS WITHIN THE CASTLE!!
EH?

ARE YOU SURE THAT WILL WORK?
UM ...
TMP
TMP
TMP

I'M QUICKLY LOSING MY ENTHUSIASM...
Ready to knock
OKAY, NOW HOW SHOULD I START THIS CONVERSATION?
MR. MASTER WIZARD, SIR?

YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU CAN DO IT!!

THIS IS GOING TO WORK...
...HOW?!
My grandpa's friends always...
WELL...
...I CAN'T JUST MOPE AROUND
OKAY!
OH NOOO!
WHY AM I SO STUPID?! HOW COULD I PUT MYSELF INTO THIS SITUATION?!

HELLO, VAITH.
COME IN.
Eep!
OH MY GOD...
...MY MIND IS SIMPLY NOT READY FOR THIS YET!
Whew...

WH--
WH--
WHAT IS IT?!
NO, THAT SOUNDS TOO WEIRD.
didn't hear the servant at all
GREETINGS! I TRUST YOU ARE WELL TODAY?
WAAAH?!
MASTER SYLTH. FARN!
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT SOME THING.
I CAME TO SEE VAITH.
REALLY STARTLED ME!
SHE...
OH!
I'M SORRY!
I WAS JUST CONCERNED THAT YOU MIGHT BE FEELING ILL. YOU'VE BEEN STANDING THERE FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.

U-UM... I...
WHO WAS...
...THAT GIRL?!
...A PAL FROM SCHOOL.
LOUIE IS...
IS HE ANGRY?! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME!
OH, I SEE.
HER CHILDHOOD FRIEND, ALFRED...
...HE WAS AT THE UPRISING OF SELBA...

YES. I KNEW HIM.
I TOLD LOUIE...
...THAT I WOULD ASK YOU ABOUT HIM!
ALTHOUGH I WOULD NEVER BELIEVE THAT YOU'D HAVE USED YOUR MEN AS A SHIELD, NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING!
AND LOUIE NEEDS TO BE TOLD THE TRUTH, AND- AND-I
sit down here
RATTLE
I AM NEITHER MAD NOR BOTHERED. RELAX, OKAY?
JUST CALM DOWN.
...!
PFFT.

CAPTAIN VAITH.
BULL-SHIT!!
I WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU HERE!
PLEASE LEAVE US NOW!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN ALL MAKE IT.

...OF THIS AGAIN...
I NEVER WANTED TO SPEAK...
YET IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF DESTINY.

IT WAS DURING THE WAR OF SELBA.
I WAS STILL THE CAPTAIN OF A SMALL MILITARY UNIT.
WE HAD BEEN REDUCED TO FOUR PEOPLE...

WOULD YOU STOP SAYING THAT?!
I DON'T WANT TO DRAG YOU DOWN WITH ME.
LET ME GIVE UP NOW. PLEASE!
HOW FOR TUNATE FOR US TO MEET LIKE THIS!
WHAT A PATHETIC ARMY, CAPTAIN...
PLEASE SEE THAT IT GETS... TO...MY CHILD-HOOD... FRIEND!
THIS! TAKE THIS...
NEVER! YOU WILL GIVE IT TO HER YOURSELF!!
WELL, WELL, WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!

SILENCE!!
BUT THEN WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!
INCLUDING YOU!
CAP-TAIN...
I WILL NOT LET THESE MEN DIE!!
YOU CAN STILL WALK SOME MORE, CAN'T YOU?
WE'RE ALL COMING HOME TOGETHER EVEN IF I HAVE TO CARRY YOU ON MY BACK!
YOU'VE STILL GOT LEGS, HAVEN'T YOU?

S-SOME-BODY!!
GET A DOCTOR!
WE'RE BACK ...

SEIZE THEM!
SHIT...!

SINCE THEN...
WHAT WON'T COME OFF?
...IT WON'T COME OFF.
AND IT'S BLACK.

THE BLOOD, OF COURSE.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I WASH MY HAIR...
...I FEEL LIKE IT'S STILL THERE
THAT'S WHY I STARTED DYING MY HAIR BLACK.

.....!
AH?
.....
I SHOULD SAY, I WANTED TO BRING THEM ALL BACK HOME WITH ME.
I FELT LIKE I BROUGHT BACK ALL MY MEN WITH ME...

IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I LOST MY MEN.
AND YET IT NEVER MAKES ME FEEL BETTER, EVEN THOUGH MANY PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME JUST THAT.
I...
...I'M SO SORRY.
SEE, IT HAS BEEN TWO AND HALF YEARS.
.. SINCE I WAS ASKED TO GIVE THIS TO HER.
DON'T WORRY.
I APPRECIATE THAT YOU CARED TO ASK ME ABOUT THIS VERY MUCH

"WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIS WHITE HAIR SINCE HE WENT OFF TO FIGHT THAT WAR."
...
VAITH FEELS JUST AS STRONGLY ABOUT ALFRED AS LOUIE DOES.
NEVER.
IT REMINDS ME...
...NOT TO FORGET.
HMM...
SURELY IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
I HEARD THAT MANY UNITS WERE DESTROYED!
BUT!

VAITH.
ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?
I GUESS.
REALLY?
THAT'S GOOD
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, NOW.
FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD ...
I MUST...
...FORBID YOU FROM SEEING ANY BEREAVED INDIVIDUALS OF YOUR LOST SOLDIERS.
ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT WERE KILLED IN THE UPRISING OF SELBA.

WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE IT TO HER?
I WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO SEE ANY FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE SOLDIERS.
IS IT NOT A MEMENTO OF ALFRED?
BY BOTH THE COUNCIL...
...AND SYLTH-FARN.
NO WAY!
I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT LOUIE WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT IT!

...IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN BETWEEN YOU AND ANY OF THEIR FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS.
ANY KIND OF COMMU-NICATION, EVEN THE SIMPLE WRITING OF A LETTER..
I HAVE...
...A RESPONSIBILITY...
WHY?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
THIS IS NOT OPEN TO DEBATE. WE DECIDED IT AT THE COUNCIL.
IT'S TO PROTECT YOU.
BUT I...

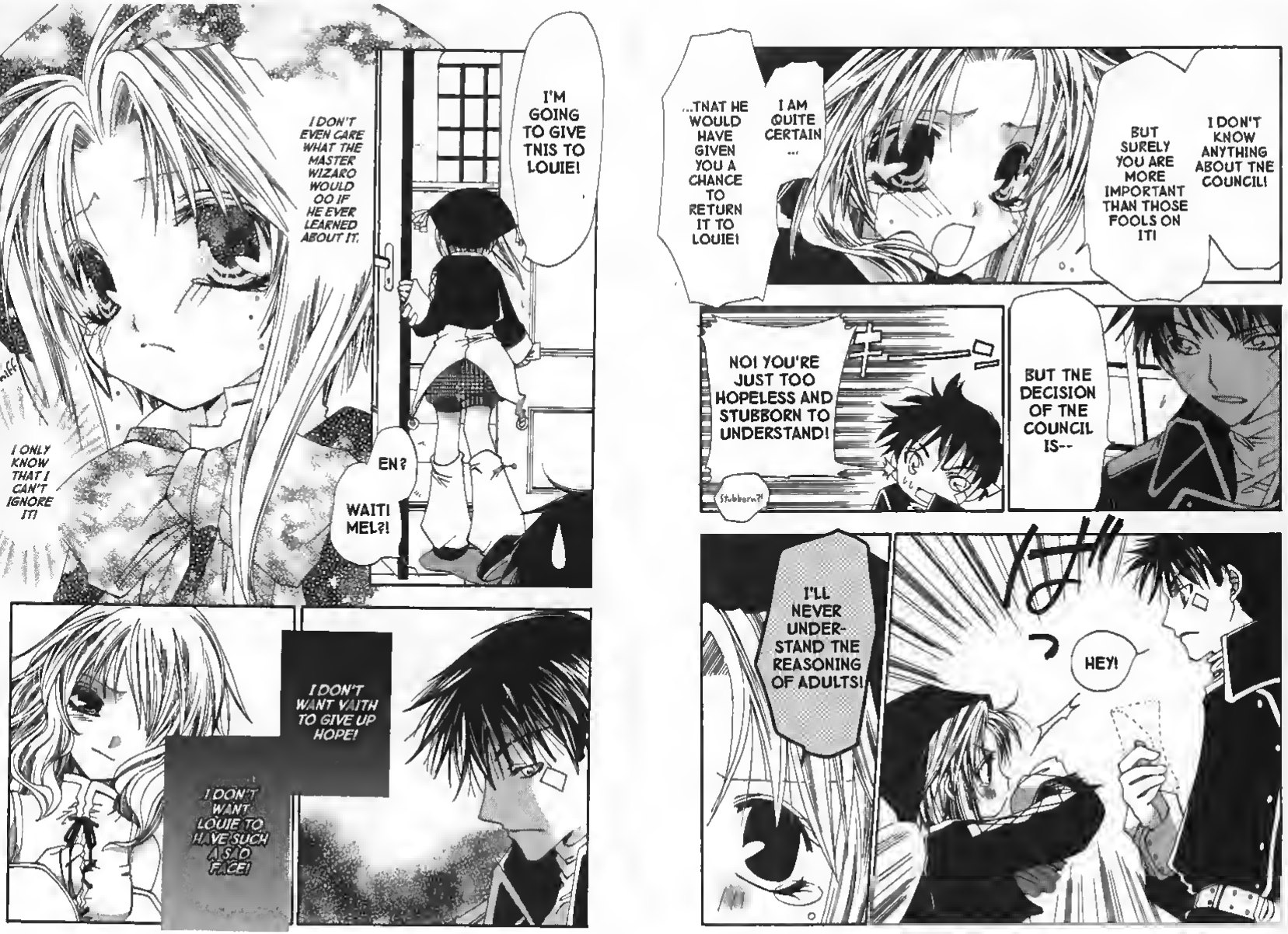
Episode.19

THE INERASABLE BLACK. THE INERASABLE COLOR OF SPILLED BLOOD.
THE LONELY SCAR, THE ONLY PROOF OF CARRYING THESE FEELINGS FOR THOSE LOST SOLDIERS.
TAKE HEED. FOR REMEMBER, I AM THE ONE...
...WHO GAVE YOU THIS ORDER.
DRP
DRP

I MUST LET HER KNOW.
I'M THE ONLY SURVIVOR ...
I WILL NOT PERMIT ANY EXCEPTIONS!
IT WAS NOT YOUR FAULT. LET IT GO.
SYLTHI

NO.
IT WASN'T NECESSARY TO DO SO.
DID YOU TELL THE MASTER WIZARD THAT YOU HAD IT?
ABOUT...
...THE LETTER.
ISN'T HE THE MASTER WIZARD?!
SURELY THE GREAT SYLTHFARN WHOM I HAVE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT...
...WILL BE ANGERED BY YOUR NOT TELLING NIM!
カミナリ
WHY?!
NOW DO YOU KNOW IT WASN'T NECESSARY TO TELL NIM?!
MEL?!

IS SOMETHING WRONG?
MEL?
ALTHOUGH I DESPERATELY WANT TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO DO SO.
WHAT...
...CAN I DO?
THE TREMENDOUS PAIN...
I...


I DON'T EVEN CARE WHAT THE MASTER WIZARD WOULD DO IF HE EVER LEARNED ABOUT IT.
I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS TO LOUIE!
Sniff
I ONLY KNOW THAT I CAN'T IGNORE IT!
EH?
WAIT! MEL?!
I DON'T WANT VAITH TO GIVE UP HOPE!
I DON'T WANT LOUIE TO HAVE SUCH A SAD FACE!
...THAT HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A CHANCE TO RETURN IT TO LOUIE!
I AM QUITE CERTAIN ...
BUT SURELY YOU ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THOSE FOOLS ON IT!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE COUNCIL!
NO! YOU'RE JUST TOO HOPELESS AND STUBBORN TO UNDERSTAND!
Stubborn?!
BUT THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL IS--
I'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND THE REASONING OF ADULTS!
HEY!

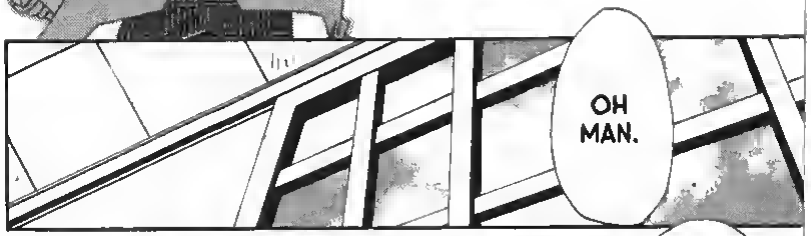
...IF SYLTH LOOKS LIKE THAT WHEN HE CRIES.
I WONDER...

AND SO I MADE YET ANOTHER...
...CHILD CRY!
I'm a lousy adult, aren't I?

MEL?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

Wipe

AND THAT'S WHY I'M DOING THIS!


OH MAN.

CAN'T ARGUE THAT.

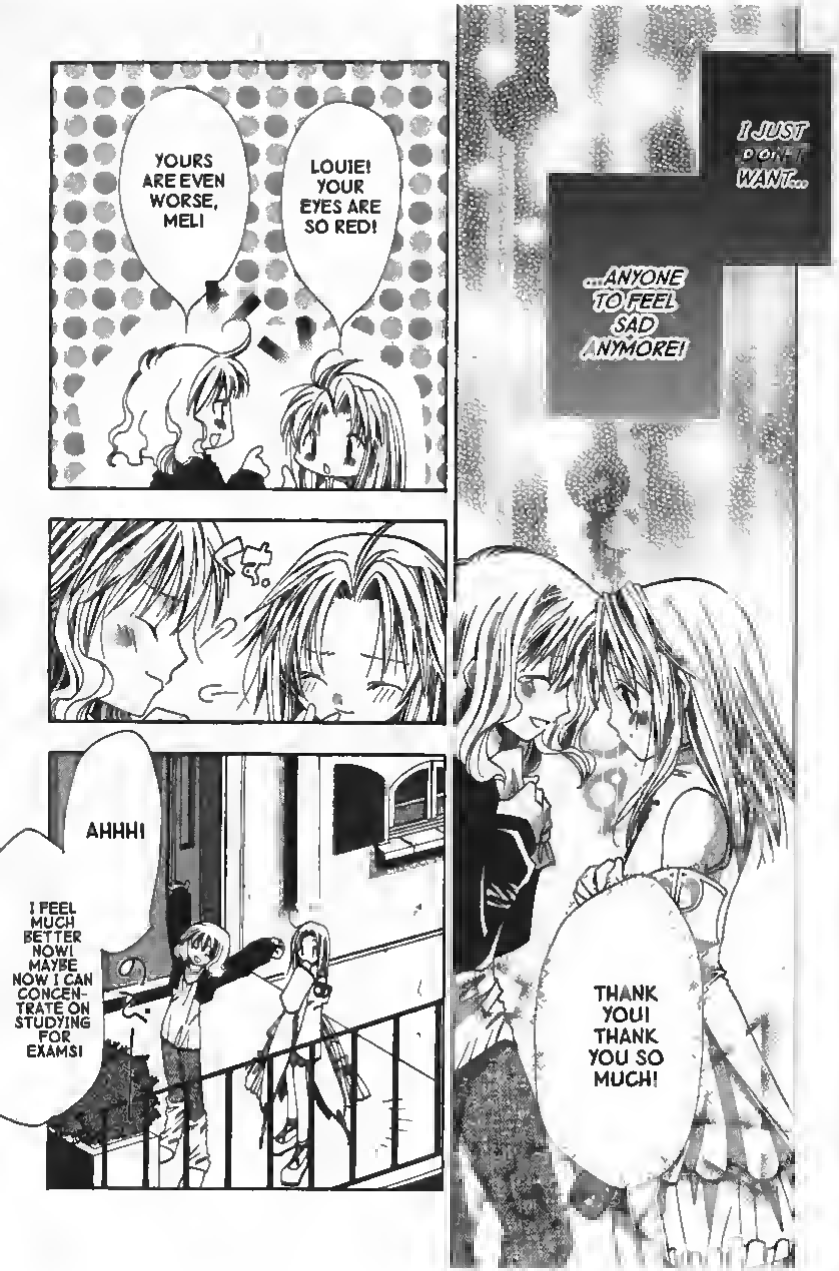
HOPELESS AND STUBBORN...
...AM I?

nod
IS THIS?!
REALLY?!
BUT NOW? HOW DID YOU GET THIS?!
THIS IS A LETTER FROM MR. ALFRED...
...TO YOU.
I MET WITH CAPTAIN VAITH AND HE...
...TOLD ME EVERYTHING ABOUT MR. ALFRED.

WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
L-LOUIE...
You look really distressed!
Mmm!
COME NOW.
YOU MUST STOP CRYING AND TELL ME WHAT'S THE MATTER.
JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND TELL ME.
THIS...

DEAREST LOUIE
HOW ARE YOU? I AM DOING FINE.
THE WORST PART OF ARMY LIFE IS HOW BAD THE FOOD TASTES.
TOMORROW, WE FIGHT THE REBEL ARMY.
I WILL WRITE AGAIN ONCE THINGS ARE SETTLED.
IT IS A SHAME THAT SO MANY PEOPLE MUST SPILL BLOOD...
...UNDER SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SKY.

LOUIE...
ONLY THERE WAS NO "AGAIN."
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HOLDING HIS LAST LETTER.
HE DIDN'T EVEN WRITE ANY-THING IMPOR-TANT!
EH?
VAITH TRIED TO BRING ALFRED HOME WITH HIM.
THAT FOOL!


YOURS ARE EVEN WORSE, MEL!
LOUIE! YOUR EYES ARE SO RED!
I JUST DON'T WANT...
...ANYONE TO FEEL SAD ANYMORE!
AHHH!
I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW! MAYBE NOW I CAN CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING FOR EXAMS!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

CAPTAIN VAITH TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED TO BRING ALFRED HOME TO YOU.
HE WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS LETTER, THESE LAST FEELINGS OF ALFRED!
I AM NOW A LETTER, WHOSE PURPOSE...
...IS TO COMMUNICATE THE TRUE FEELINGS OF VAITH...
...TO LOUIE'S HEART.
MEL?

WHOA!
YOU LOOK SERIOUSLY MESSED UP, MEL!
...AND...
FERN...
... GLENN?
FERN!
I SIMPLY CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO MAKE SUCH A RUDE COMMENT TO OUR LADY!
PSTHE
FROM VAITH?
Thank you.
PLEASE TAKE IT.
VAITH WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU THIS.

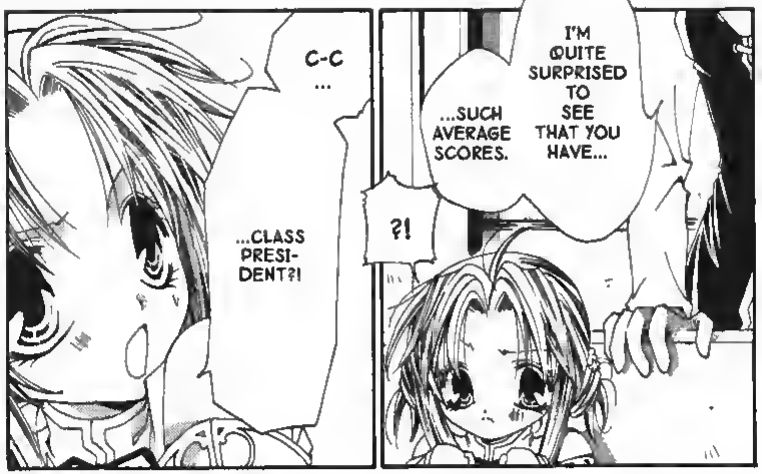
YES!
!
AND I'M SURE YOU CAN...
...TOO!
P...
PLEASE COME IN!
I MUST HAVE SUCH A HORRIBLE FACE RIGHT NOW!
WAH!

I DIDH'T WAHT TO COME HERE ALONE.
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU COMIHG WITH ME...
... MEL.
I JUST HOPE HE FEELS BETTER.
THINK NOTHING OF IT. IT'S MY PLEASURE.
HUH?
OH!
I'M CERTAIN EVEN HIS PARENTS HAVEN'T COME HERE YET.
I WONDER WHO BROUGHT THIS BOUQUET OF FLOWERS?

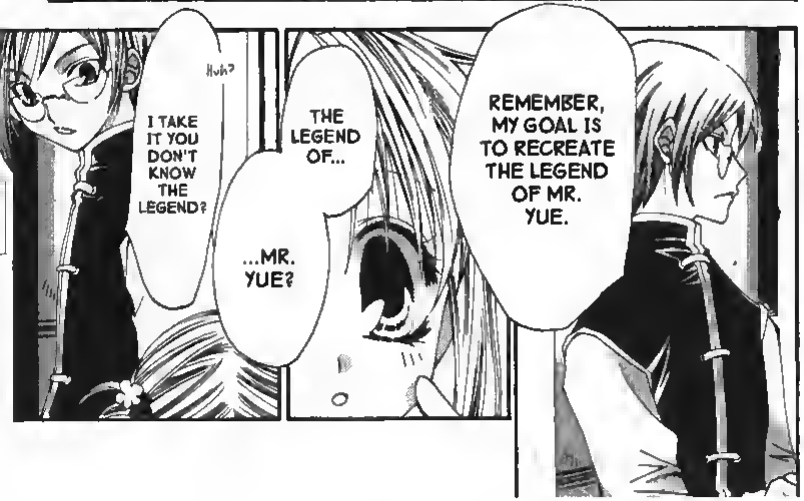
!
"THANKS."
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
WHAT IF IT SAYS SOMETHING LIKE "DON'T MESS WITH ME"?
VAITH HAD SUCH A WEIRD SMILE...
...ON HIS FACE.
IT WAS NO MAGIC.
WHAT KIND OF MAGIC DID YOU USE, MERLEAWE?

Episode.20

YES!
I THINK THEY MUST BE FROM VAITH!
YOU DON'T THINK ...?


C-C ...
...CLASS PRESI-DENT?!
I'M QUITE SURPRISED TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE...
...SUCH AVERAGE SCORES.
?!

OF COURSE!
Kek!
Wow!
Let's see
YOU BETTER HAVE PRETTY AMAZING SCORES TO SAY SUCH A THING TO HER.


Huh?
I TAKE IT YOU DON'T KNOW THE LEGEND?
THE LEGEND OF...
...MR. YUE?
REMEMBER, MY GOAL IS TO RECREATE THE LEGEND OF MR. YUE.

MEL!
HOW DID YOU DO ON YOUR SKILLS TEST?
WELL...
Results
Fire
Water
Soil
Wind
C
B-
C+
B+
I DID OKAY.
SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL MY SPECIAL COACHES!
Thank you!

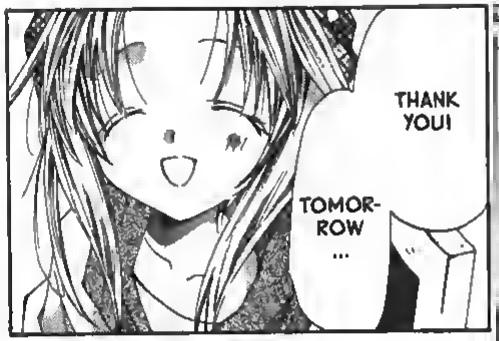
I PER-FORMED WELL ENOUGH.
I DID SO-SO.
I DIDN'T DO TOO HOT.
HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?

WHAT?!
...IN LOVE WITH MEL?
WELL, WE GIRLS ARE GETTING AWFULLY SUSPICIOUS!
N-N-NO WAY! WHY WOULD I BE IN LOVE WITH HER?!
HUH?
WHAT SILLY NONSENSE! THIS CONVER-SATION'S OVER!
HE COULDN'T BE IN LOVE WITN ME OR ANYONE. NOT WHEN NIS MIND IS SO FULL OF YUE.

HE ACED EVERY TEST, TOO.
MR. YUE...
...WAS AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS HIS ENTIRE TIME HERE.
WOW.
REALLY?
HE KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT YUE.
MUST YOU ALWAYS BRAG IN FRONT OF MEL?
HEY, MR. CLASS PRESI-DENT?
WITH YUE AS MY TUTOR, THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EVER GET TRULY WRETCHED SCORES.
TELL US, ARE YOU...
YOU ARE SO RIGHT!

WELL!
I am not going to leave you alone..
Oh, I know that!
..not if you embarrass Mr. Yve.
I EXPECT YOU TO DO BETTER NEXT TIME, MER-LEAWE.
Ha ha.
FINE BY ME.
YES!
LET'S FORGET ALL ABOUT WHATEVER THAT IDIOT HAD TO SAY!

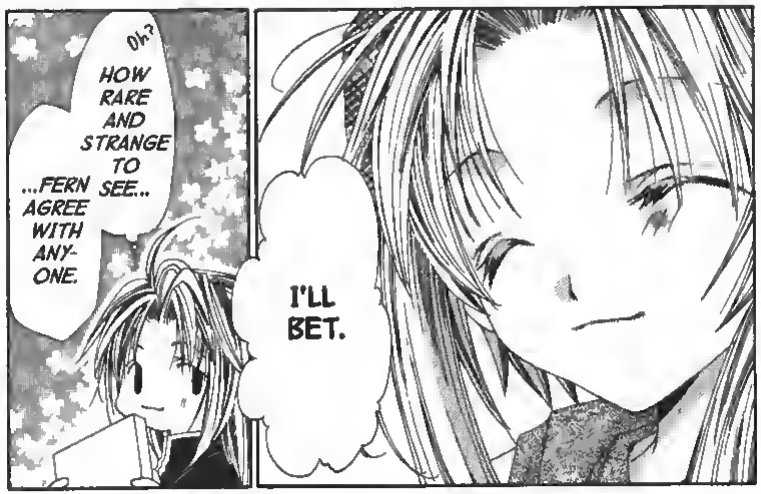
YES.
AREN'T THEY WRITTEN TESTS?
WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU HAVE EXAMS IN NEXT?


THANK YOU!
TOMOR-ROW ...

HAVE A CUP OF TEA.

AN ANCIENT LANGUAGE EXAM.
ON! AND A WORLD HISTORY EXAM.
...I HAVE A HISTORY OF MAGIC EXAM.

OR ARE YOU JUST GOOD AT MEMO-RIZING?
IS THAT TRUE? ARE YOU REALLY GOOD AT THEM?
YOU ARE PROFICIENT IN THOSE SUBJECTS, AREN'T YOU?
I GUESS SO.
Maybe.


Oh?
HOW RARE AND STRANGE TO SEE...
...FERN AGREE WITH ANY-ONE.
I'LL BET.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE WRITTEN EXAMS...
Let's see...
...WENT WELL SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE SUBJECT THAT I'M BAD IN.
MY REAL CHALLENGE COMES TOMORROW.

?
THEN, WHY?
I'M NOT GOOD AT MEMORIZING AT ALL!
IT'S THE OPPO-SITE.
THAT'S NOT IT!

WELL, I STILL DON'T GET IT.
REALLY?
I SIMPLY LOVE LEARNING AN ANCIENT LANGUAGE!
AND IT'S SO INTERESTING TO STUDY ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED BACK IN THE DAY IN FARAWAY AND FOREIGN LANDS.
BUT I NEVER GET IT WITH YOU, MEL.
Even now, he wants to be snarky with me

THAT MUCH I AGREE WITH.
...THAT FEEL RIGHT TO YOU.
STILL, IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO DO THINGS...

ON THE SECOND DAY, YOU ONLY HAVE SUBJECTS THAT YOU'RE POOR IN?
SIGH!
I WISH I WERE SMART LIKE YUE!
THAT SUCKS!
Totally sucks!
?!
!
YOU JUST SAID THAT OUT LOUD.
YOU KNOW...
I'M SORRY!
bonk
Ouch!
Oh my god!

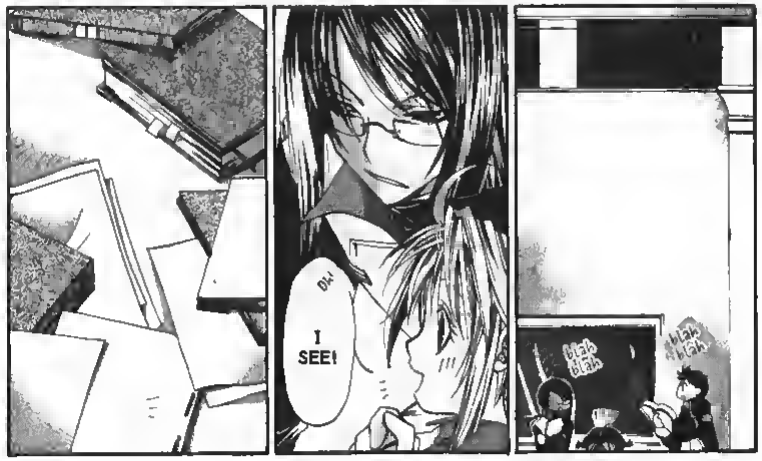
THERE IS ONE PERSON WHO BECAME A MASTER WIZARD...
...WITHOUT TAKING EVEN A SINGLE WRITTEN EXAM.
Farmway Gate
RELAX. DON'T WORRY SO MUCH.
WHAT?!
THAT WAS ONLY A LEGEND.
Please
WHO IS THIS PERSON?!
IT WAS SYLTH-FARN.
EH?

WRITTEN EXAMS? HA! I REFUSE TO TAKE THEM.
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO PUT DOWN ON PAPER WHAT I HAVE IN MY BRAIN?
IT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE.
THOSE WERE HIS WORDS
How like him.
BUT HE DID HAVE ALL THE KNOWLEDGE.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS THIS MASTER WIZARD?
YUE HOLDS THE LEGENDARY RANK OF TOP STUDENT.
AND SYLTH REMAINS THE CLASSIC BAD STUDENT.
Sure enough!
WHAT AM I TO DO?
I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE!
SYLTHFARN IS SYLTHFARN.
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE JUST LIKE YOURSELF, MERLEAWE
EVEN FERN TOLD YOU SO, DIDN'T HE?
YES.
Sigh
THEN, LET'S START WITH MAGICAL THEORY.
MAGICAL ENHANCEMENT!
どぴゅっ
MAGICAL FORMULAS!
Y-Y--
YES, SIR!

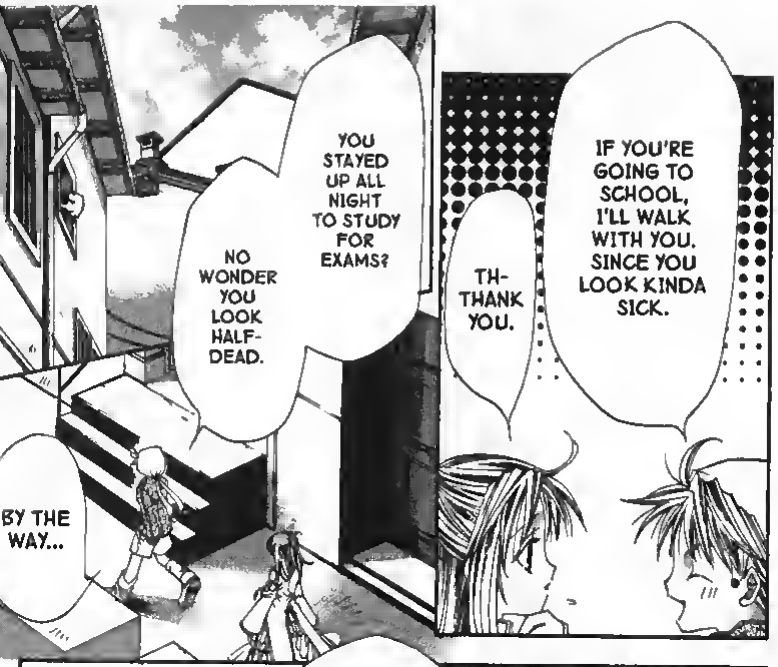
Mini-exam papers
Correction time
YOU SUCK, DON'T YOU?
Sigh.
I'M JUST FINE!
Uryah!
MATHE-MATICAL FORMULAS
SO...
WHAT EXACTLY IS SHE WEAKEST AT?
Silly girl
ALL RIGHT!!
books of mathe-matical formulas
JUST MEMORIZE ALL THESE BOOKS!
However that's supposed to work!
BUT SHE SAID SHE'S TERRIBLE AT MEMORIZING!
Who's the idiot here?
MAYBE WORSE THAN SUCK!
Wow!
Oh no!
NOW I'M GETTING SOME SORT OF RASH!
Owww.

.....
MAGIC IS BASICALLY FORMED THROUGH A METHOD UNDERSTOOD THROUGH THE ECLIPTIC AND SEVEN PLANETS THAT WE CALL THE ZODIAC. SO DON'T FORGET THE TITLES AND SYMBOLS OF THE ZODIAC. NOW WITH EIGHT STARS AND LOOKING LIKE A BELT
THE THEORY OF MAGIC CAN BE SUMMED UP IN A FEW SIMPLE WORDS. THERE ARE MANY FACETS, HOWEVER THAT ONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND. THE PRINCIPLES OF AND THE BASIC METHODS OF WHICH CANNOT BE SUMMED UP SO QUICKLY. EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS ON PAGE 163 OF YOUR TEXTBOOK
DELIVERY
?!?!
SOME JEWELS AND PLANTS HAVE APHRODISIAC POWERS. OTHERS CAN CURE DISEASES OR REVIVE THE SICKLY AND YET OTHERS CAN PROPHESIZE AND PREDICT. AND IN THE SPECTRUM OF PLANTS, THE POWERS GIVEN TO THEM IS ALMOST INFINITE. YOU RECOGNIZE...
ELEMENTAL MAGIC IS CONNECTED TO THE NATURAL WORLD, AS ITS NAME IMPLIES. ROCKS AND TREES HAVE MAGICAL POWER BUT LOOKING AT THIS CRITICALLY WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PRIMAL CONNECTION OF THE NATURAL AND THE ANCIENTS WHO WERE SO CLOSE TO IT
NO
△○×☆
TO MAKE A THING MORE FLUID YOU COMBINE WATER AND OTHER ELEMENTS. WHICH WE WILL DISCUSS. BUT THEN THERE'S SEVERAL FIRE BASED COMPOUNDS THAT ARE BASED ON THE SOLIDITY OF THE FIRST ELEMENT, SULFUR BEING A PRIMARY EXAMPLE..
ALCHEMY IS BASED ON THE SAME PRINCIPLES OF ELEMENTAL MAGIC. THERE'S THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF FIRE, WATER, SOIL AND WIND. BUT THEN THERE ARE THE WAYS THEY CAN BE COMBINED. AND UNDERSTANDING THEIR THEORY IS NECESSARY FOR THAT
MER-LEAWE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

I MUST GET TO MY SCHOOL.
THIS IS NO GOOD.
I I
ACK!
HUH?
faint
HEY, WATCH OUT!
YOU'LL BE RUN OVER BY A CARRIAGE!
OH!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY

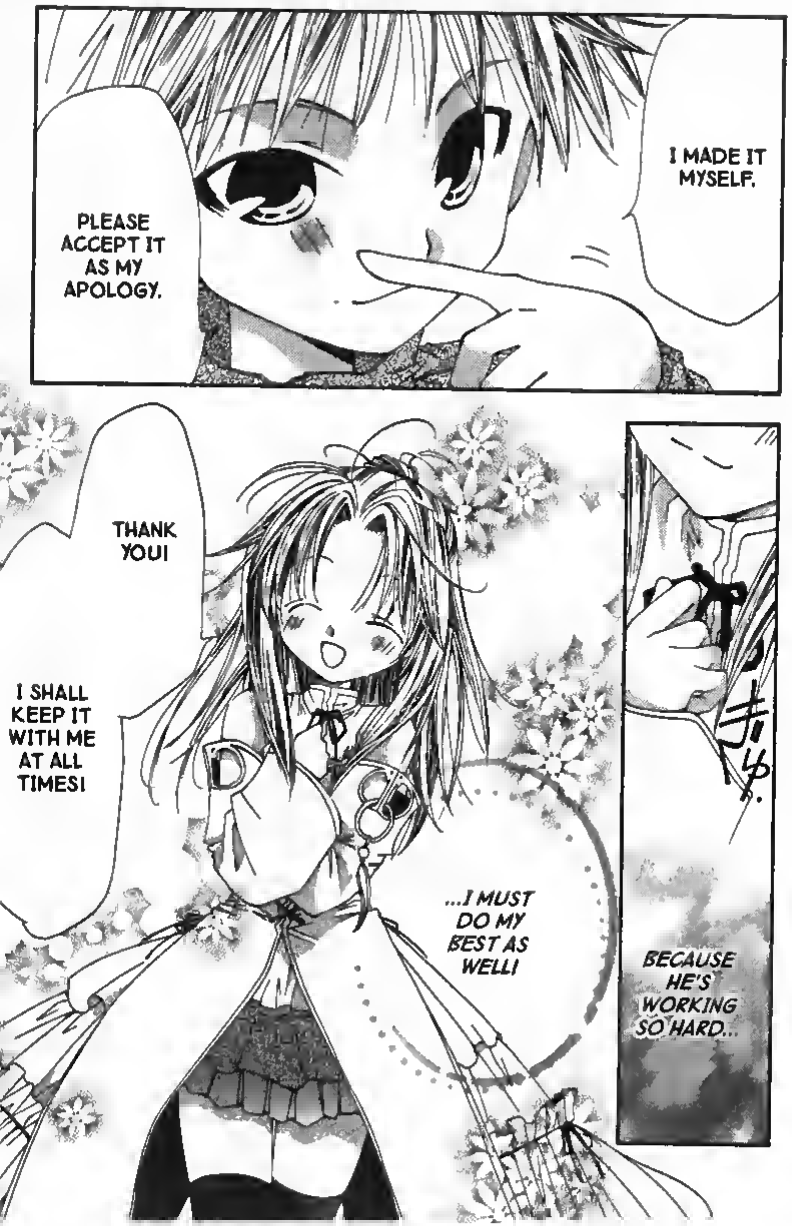

I SEE!
blah blah

They Were Up All Night
GOOD LUCK!!
ALL RIGHT!
THANKS.
Yawn...


YOU STAYED UP ALL NIGHT TO STUDY FOR EXAMS?
NO WONDER YOU LOOK HALF-DEAD.
BY THE WAY...
TH-THANK YOU.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL, I'LL WALK WITH YOU. SINCE YOU LOOK KINDA SICK.

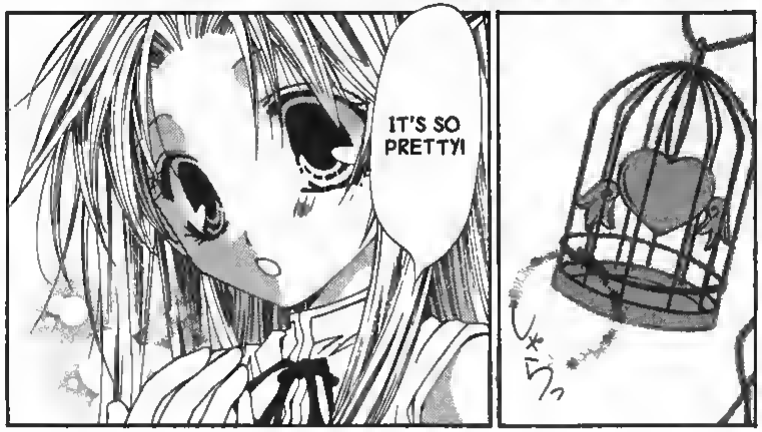
I'M SORRY MY MISUNDER-STANDING LAST TIME MADE YOU UNCOMFOR-TABLE.
NO...
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

Huh?
YOU'RE THE...
I'VE MET YOU BEFORE!
AH!
SHATO...?
THAT'S IT!


I MADE IT MYSELF.
PLEASE ACCEPT IT AS MY APOLOGY.
THANK YOU!
I SHALL KEEP IT WITH ME AT ALL TIMES!
...I MUST DO MY BEST AS WELL!
BECAUSE HE'S WORKING SO HARD...

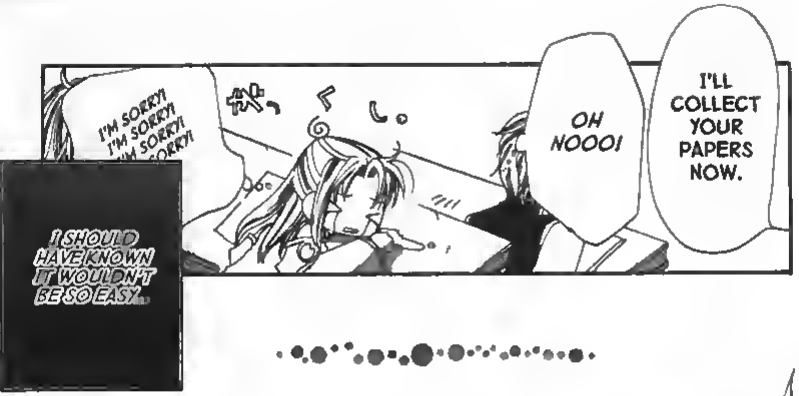
EH?
THEN?
...DID HE ABANDON ALL THOSE SWEET LITTLE KIDS?
I GOT MYSELF AN APPRENTICE-SHIP!

HERE.
PLEASE TAKE THIS.
THE REST OF THE KIDS WENT TO AN ORPHANAGE.
THEY'RE DOING GREAT!
I BET YOU'RE WONDER-ING...

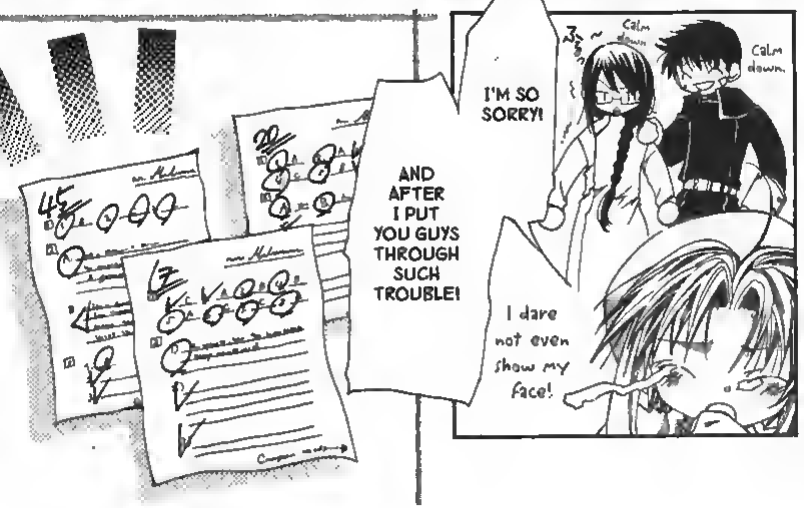

IT'S SO PRETTY!

PLEASE TAKE ONE OF THE TEST PAPERS AND PASS THE REST BACK.
I STUDIED A LOT AND EVERYONE TAUGHT ME EVERY-THING THEY COULD.
I EVEN MET SHATO THIS MORNING!
AND HE GAVE ME THIS BEAUTIFUL PENDANT. GOOD THINGS JUST KEEP HAPPENING!
YOU MAY NOW BEGIN!
I WILL DO FINE...
YEP!
...ON THESE EXAMS!
...
HUH? THIS QUESTION IS SO TOUGH...

GOOD LUCK...
LOOK!
THAT'S YOUR SCHOOL OVER THERE.
ALREADY?
...WITH YOUR EXAMS!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
THANK YOU FOR THE LOVELY GIFT! BEST OF LUCK TO YOU, TOO! ♡
♪


I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
OH NOOO!
I'LL COLLECT YOUR PAPERS NOW.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T BE SO EASY.

SHE DID STAY UP ALL NIGHT!
SO YOU JUST FELL ASLEEP, HUH?
I used to fall asleep during exams, too.
YOU FELL ASLEEP DURING THE EXAM?!


I'M SO SORRY!
AND AFTER I PUT YOU GUYS THROUGH SUCH TROUBLE!
Calm down.
Calm down.
I dare not even show my face!

FIVE MINUTES LEFT.

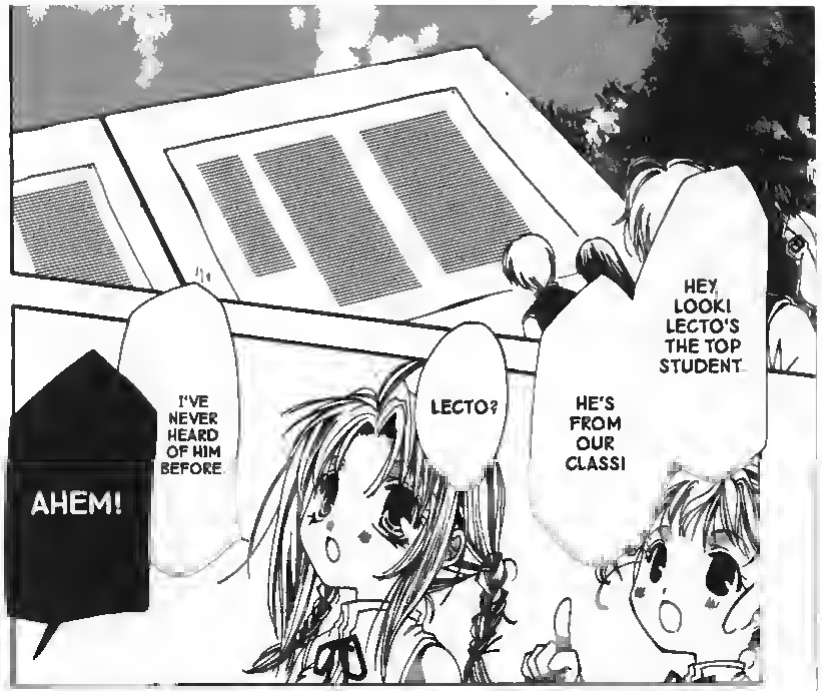
HM.

NOD

WAAHH!! I HAVEN'T ANSWERED ANYTHING!
NO WAY!! I FELL ASLEEP?!

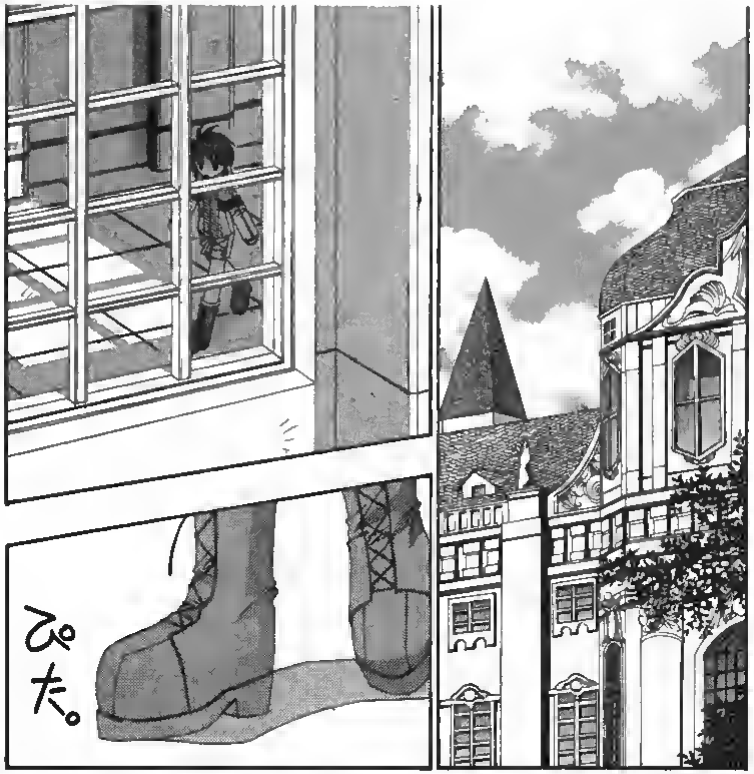
NO!

Episode.21


AHEM!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM BEFORE
LECTO?
HE'S FROM OUR CLASS!
HEY, LOOK! LECTO'S THE TOP STUDENT

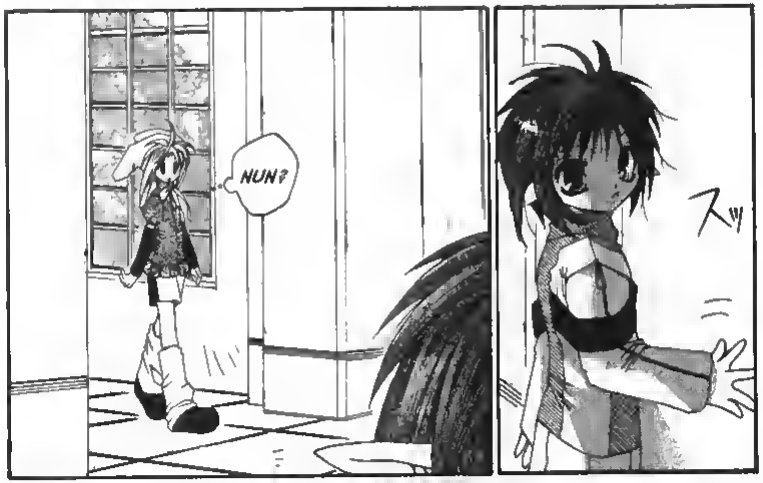
THAT'S HIS NAME?!
THE CLASS PRESIDENT?!

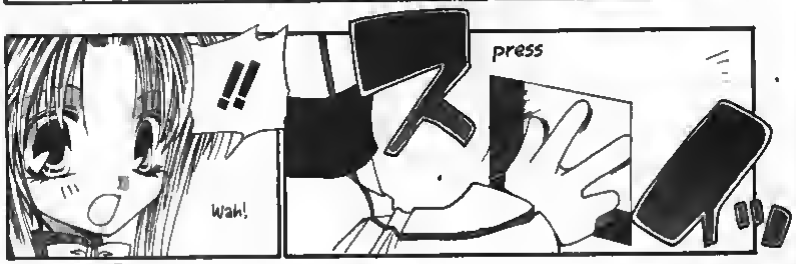
...I WOUND UP TAKING THE EXAMS AGAIN.
IN THE END...


ぴた。

DID I JUST SEE SOMETHING I SHOUDN'T HAVE?
EH?! WHAT WAS THAT?!

Cough!
OH MAN...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW DUSTY IT IS ALREADY IN HERE


NUN?


!!
Wah!
press

swish
ka-thunk

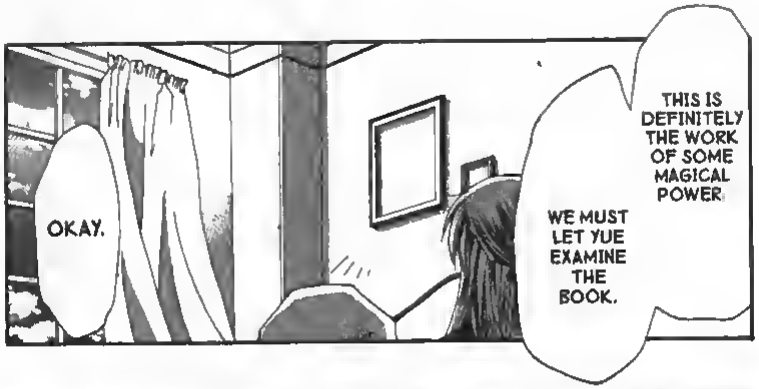
YES. THIS IS A ROOM...
IS IT A SECRET?
YOU CAN'T EVER SAY ANY-THING TO ANYONE, PROMISE?
...FOR JUST ME AND SYLTH.
!!
I COME HERE TO CLEAN IT SOMETIMES.
IF YOU WANT.
THEN, PLEASE!
I'll do my best
FINE. ONLY, DON'T MAKE A MESS, OKAY?
ALLOW ME TO HELP!

OKAY!
LET'S DO THIS!
WHAT ?!
FERN?
MEL!
HOW DID YOU--?!
I-I...
GAH! I'M BUSTED
SHOULD I...
...HAVE NOT COME HERE?
Fool! You should have been more careful!

YOU MUST NOT...
...EVER OPEN THIS BOOK, UNDERSTAND?
THIS BOOK...
I REMEMBER...
!
AGH!
FERN, WHAT'S WRONG?
bzzt

I'M FINE.
Hmph!
Sigh...
I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL
I MUST BE VERY CAREFUL
OH NO! THIS PILE OF BOOKS IS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE
KA-THUD
HUH?
FERN?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WAAAAHH!!
W-WH-WHAT IS GOING ON?!
FERN!!
HEY!
WHAT?! WHAT IS THIS?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WHAT WAS THAT BOOK?!


THIS IS DEFINITELY THE WORK OF SOME MAGICAL POWER.
WE MUST LET YUE EXAMINE THE BOOK.
OKAY.

WHAT'S THIS ROOM?
WOW!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HE'S FALLEN INTO A DEEP COMA.
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN TO HIM?
FORGIVE ME, FERN. I COULDN'T KEEP YOUR SECRET.
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE IF HE'LL EVER BE BACK TO 100 PERCENT.
BUT FOR NOW, HE SEEMS FINE.

HUH?
THE SPELL'S ALREADY BEEN USED, RIGHT?
REMEMBER, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SYLTHFARN HERE.
IDIOT!
HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH ONE MEASLY SEAL
IN FACT...
UH, RIGHT. I MEAN, I KNOW HOW HE IS...
...SOMETHING FEELS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE IN HERE. I'M GETTING A WEIRD VIBE

EVERY BOY DREAMS OF HAVING ONE!
THEIR SECRET HIDEOUT!
WHY WAS I KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT THIS PLACE?
BECAUSE IT WAS SYLTH AND FERN'S SECRET.
But I was being serious!
DON'T TRY TO BULLSHIT ME.
IT LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL BOOK TO ME
DON'T TOUCH IT!!
THAT BOOK THERE...
HUH?
You mean that one?

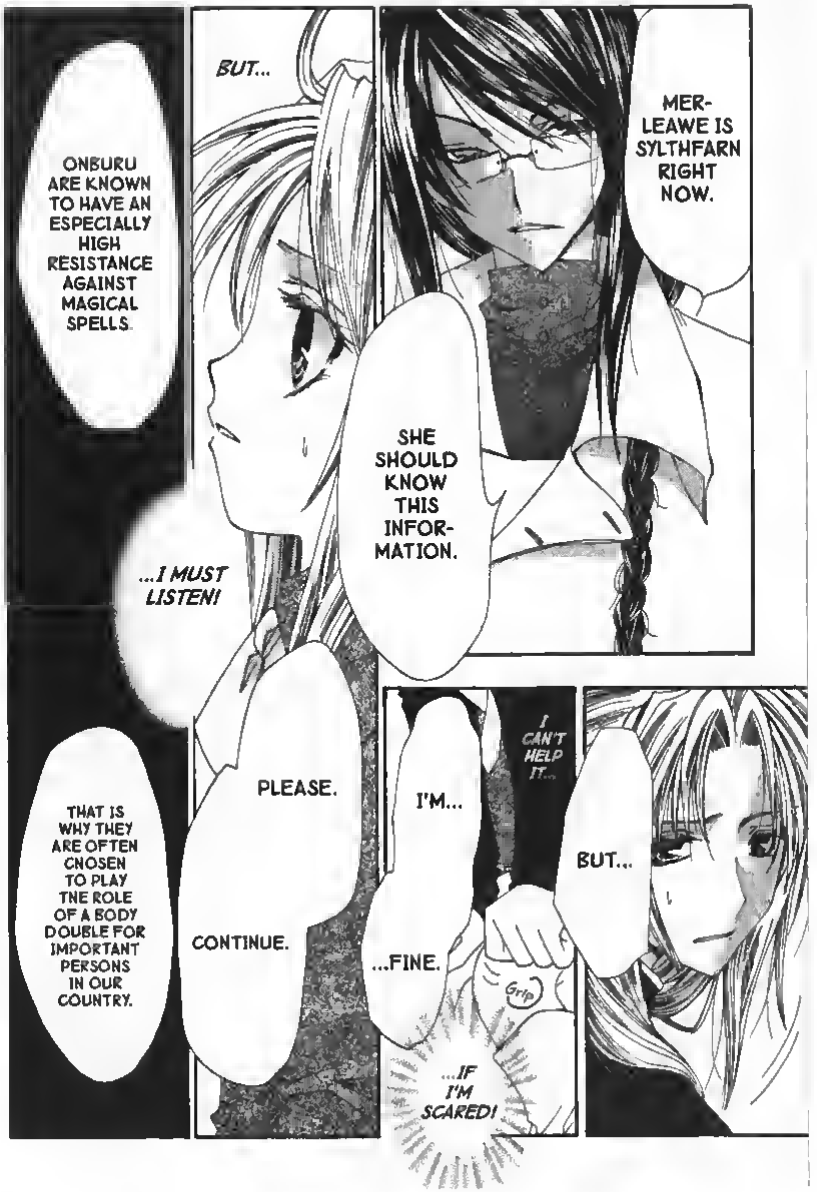
HOW IS FERN?
shake
WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT FERN FOOLISHLY TRIED TO OPEN THIS BOOK AFTER SYLTHFARN HAD CAST SOME MAGICAL SPELL ON IT--AND, AS A RESULT, WAS ZAPPED.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS BOOK?
I'LL INVES TIGATE IT. WITH CARE.
LORD KNOWS WHAT HE WAS UP TO IN HERE, BUT...
...IT'S PROBABLY BEST THAT WE TOUCH NOTHING ELSE!
WHAT IS...
...THAT CLOTH?
IT'S AN ANTI-MAGIC CLOTH.
YOU'RE SO CAUTIOUS.
Let's go.
You're right!
AND YOU SO CARELESS.

I KNOW NOT HOW STRONG THE SPELL WAS.
BUT I SENSE THAT ANYONE OTHER THAN FERN COULD EASILY HAVE DIED.
SOMEONE BESIDES FERN?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
MER-LEAWE?
Y-YES?

YOU DID REALIZE FERN WASN'T HUMAN, DIDN'T YOU?
DID NO ONE TELL YOU?
HE'S FROM A HAHZE FAMILY, ISN'T HE?
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HAHZE?
ONLY THAT LATELY WE HAVE STARTED SEEING MORE AND MORE OF THEM IN TOWNS.
THAT THEY NORMALLY HUNT AND LIVE DEEP INSIDE THE FORESTS AND THAT THEY CAN BE EASILY IDENTIFIED BY THEIR LONG EARS
EXACTLY. THEY ARE ALSO CALLED "ONBURU" OR "SHADOW PEOPLE."
THEY HAVE A VERY SPECIAL ROLE IN OUR GOVERN-MENT.
YUE!
YOU MUSTN'T!

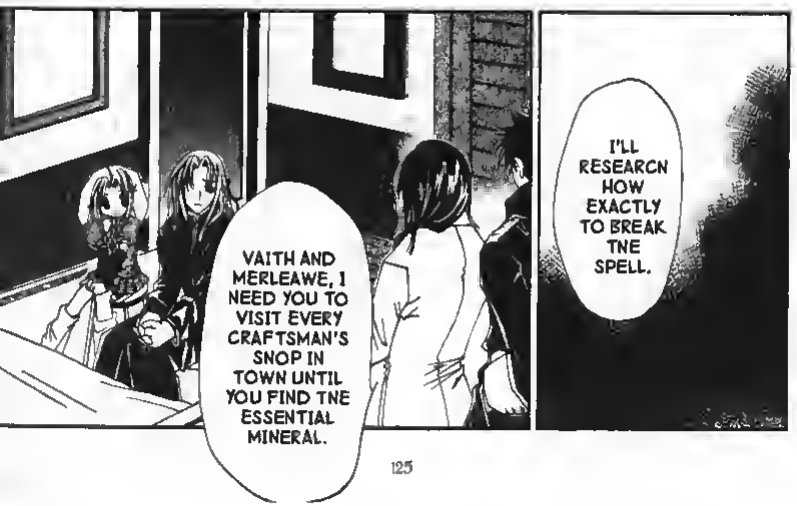
THERE IS AN ANCIENT CUSTOM PRACTICED IN SECRET IN VIEGALD.
IT DECREES THAT THE BODY DOUBLE MUST SACRIFICE NIMSELF WHEN ANY MALICIOUS SPELL OR MAGIC IS AIMED TOWARDS THEIR CHARGE.
FERN IS...
...SYLTHFARN'S BODY DOUBLE.
!!


ONBURU ARE KNOWN TO HAVE AN ESPECIALLY HIGH RESISTANCE AGAINST MAGICAL SPELLS.
BUT...
MER-LEAWE IS SYLTHFARN RIGHT NOW.
SHE SHOULD KNOW THIS INFOR-MATION.
...I MUST LISTEN!
THAT IS WHY THEY ARE OFTEN CHOSEN TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A BODY DOUBLE FOR IMPORTANT PERSONS IN OUR COUNTRY.
PLEASE.
CONTINUE.
I'M...
I CAN'T HELP IT...
BUT...
...FINE.
Grip
...IF I'M SCARED!

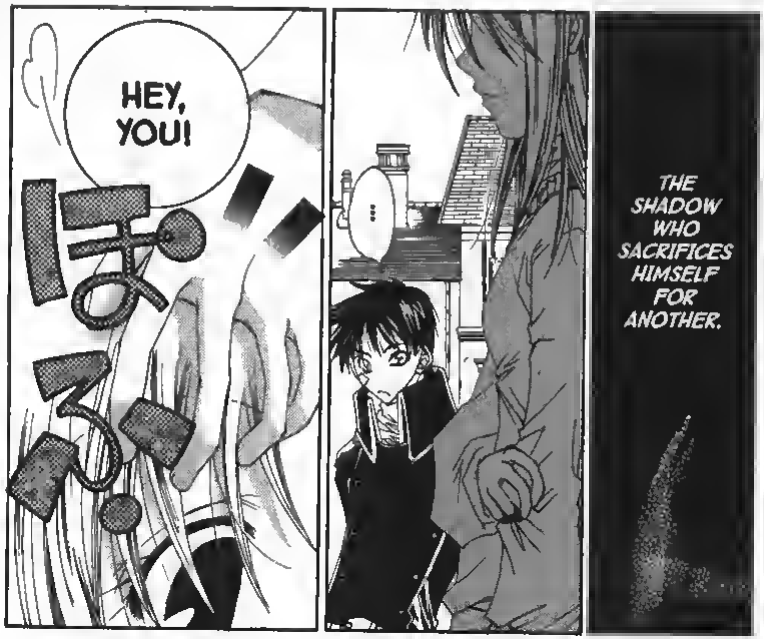
THE HAND OFFERING HELP...
...AS IF SOME SPECIAL LIGHT.

...THE MASTER WIZARD'S BODY DOUBLE...
IF FERN IS...
IT IS IMPER-ATIVE THAT...
...WE ALL SEE TO HIS RECOVERY.
I AM GOING TO NEED POWERFUL MEDICINE TO REMOVE THE SPELL.
NO DOUBT THIS SHALL BE A TRIAL FOR ALL OF US.

HERE ARE THE MAIN PROBLEMS.
FIRST, IT'S NOT AT ALL CLEAR HOW TO BREAK THE SPELL ALSO, ONE OF THE MINERALS NEEDED FOR THE REQUIRED MEDICINE IS RARE IN VIEGALD.


VAITH AND MERLEAWE, I NEED YOU TO VISIT EVERY CRAFTSMAN'S SHOP IN TOWN UNTIL YOU FIND THE ESSENTIAL MINERAL.
I'LL RESEARCH HOW EXACTLY TO BREAK THE SPELL.

Episode.22


HEY, YOU!
ぼふっ
THE SHADOW WHO SACRIFICES HIMSELF FOR ANOTHER.

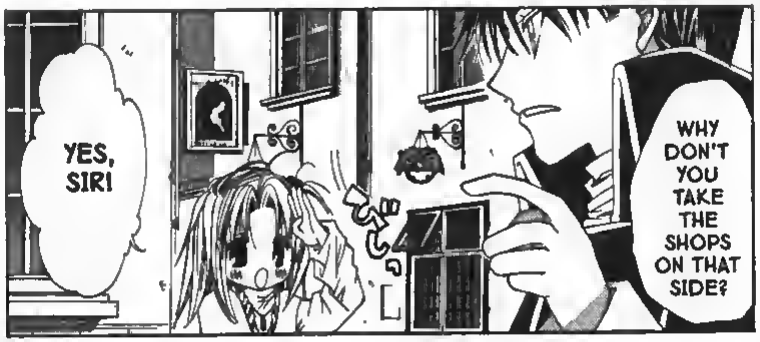
OKAY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING RIGHT NOW!
GOOD!

LET'S GO!!
WE'RE NOT GOING HOME 'TIL WE FIND IT!

IT'S N-NOTHING.
HEY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Mal?
EH?!

"FERN IS..."
SPELLS...
"...SYLTH-FARN'S BODY DOUBLE."
MAGIC...

FERN...
I WONDER...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
forgive me
LOOK ALIVE, MAN OF GOO.
Hmph!
...WHAT YOU'RE DREAMING OF RIGHT NOW?
NICE TO MEET YOU.


YES, SIR!
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE SHOPS ON THAT SIDE?

THEY MUST...
...FIND IT.
I WONDER IF THEY CAN FIND IT.

LET US BECOME FRIENDS!
WHAT IS THIS?
EH?
...NO THANK YOU.
I DON'T WANT...
...ANY FRIENDS.

SO YOU'RE MY SHADOW.
YOUR NAME IS FERN, IS IT NOT?
Pleased to meet you.
HEY.
WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN?
TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU...
...I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HAVING A BODY DOUBLE
BUT IT'S TRADITION AND ALL THAT, SO I GUESS...
...I MUST ACCEPT IT.
EVEN THOUGH I THINK IT STINKS!
THEREFORE...

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I'M EIGHT.
DO YOU LIKE HANGING OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS?
.....
WHAT GAMES DO YOU PLAY?
.....
YOU...
YOU'VE NEVER HAD ANY FRIENDS, HAVE YOU?
THAT'S OKAY. IT'S FINE!
I WILL BE YOUR VERY FIRST FRIEND AND WE'LL BE BEST FRIENDS FROM NOW ON!
91

YOU'RE A SHADOW, AREN'T YOU?
MY MOM TOLD ME NOT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU.
SHE SAID YOU'D MAKE ME EVIL, TOO.
MINE, TOO!
HOW SCARY!
I DON'T WANT TO...
...BE FRIENDS WITH ANYONE.
WHAT?!
WHY NOT?
IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
BESIDES, I DON'T LIKE BEING WITH PEOPLE.
ESPECIALLY ONES I HATE TO BE AROUND.
HEY.

THIS IS GLENN'S ROOM?
HUH?
GLENN?
YUE?
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
!!
!!!
THAT'S WHY...

SYLTH-FARM WAS ASSER-TIVE
SOMETIMES I THOUGHT HE WAS RATHER STUPID BECAUSE HE SAID SO MANY POINTLESS THINGS
BUT...
...I DIDN'T EVER HATE HIM FOR IT.
IT WAS THE VERY FIRST TIME...
...I FELT SUCH WARMTH FROM ANYBODY

I'M GOING TO...
...LOOK FOR THEM!
...TO WAKE YOU UP FROM THE SPELL.
THEY HEADED INTO TOWN TO LOOK FOR THE MINERAL THAT WE NEEDED...
WELL, WE DON'T NEED IT ANY-MORE!
WHAT?!
!
slam
I know he's dying to ask me something.
...SOME TEA?
WOULD YOU LIKE...
YES.

???
YUE ISN'T ALWAYS RIGHT. AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY THE UNDERSECRETARY OF MAGIC. SYLTH KNOWS SO MUCH MORE THAN ANY OTHER MAGICIAN, PRACTICALLY EVER. HE'S SO WISE. BUT THIS REALLY IS STUPENDOUS! SYLTH MANAGED TO SLIDE THIS PAST YUE AS IF HE WERE SIMPLY PLAYING A PRACTICAL JOKE. HAS HE NO SENSITIVITY TO
!
THAT DAMN SYLTH! HE SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF ME! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT HE WAS THINKING CREATING A SPELL SO DETRIMENTAL AND YET SO EASILY OVERCOME. DOESN'T HE HAVE ANY SENSE OF PROPORTIONS? WELL, OF COURSE NOT. HE'S SYLTH. HE DOESN'T KEEP ANYTHING IN MIND EXCEPT FOR
!
AHEM
WELL...
W-W
...weird vibe?
What's this...
WHAT?
!
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE WOKEN UP.
HOW DO YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW?
FINE!
WHERE ARE VAITH AND MEL?
OH, I REMEMBER NOW
I WAS TRAPPED BY SYLTHFARN'S SPELL

...
OH!
I found her!
I WONDER WHO THE KID IS?
I WONDER IF SYLTH...
...WOULD RUN AROUND TOWN FOR ME?
Sylth?
Yes? It's the eleventh store...
!

MAY I HELP YOU?
EXCUSE ME?
MY LEGS ARE GETTING SORE.
LET ME SEE...
SHATO!
SAY, WE'RE RUNNING INTO EACH OTHER A LOT!
I didn't know you were working here
OHHH!
FUNNY, I'VE NEVER HEARD YOUR NAME BEFORE.
IT'S MEL.
UMM...
THIS MUST BE THE TENTH STORE...
WELL...
SO...
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

I'M FINE! NO WORRIES!
ARE YOU SURE? YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
YOU CAN GIVE UP YOUR SEARCH...
FERN?!
WHAT? HOW?
...MEL.
I'M...
...FINE NOW.
Heh.
Let me go!
It's embarrassing!
Thank god!
Eek!
HEY! MEL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
...ANYMORE.
...AS A FRIEND.
...DOESN'T EVEN THINK OF ME...
MAYBE HE WOULDN'T. SINCE HE'S GOT SO MANY OTHER OBLIGATIONS.
HE PROBABLY...

IS ME!...
...MY FRIEND?
HEY, LITTLE MAN! YOU SURE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE A NICE FRIEND LIKE HER! TAKE CARE!
SEE YOU!
FERN?
LET'S GO HOME.
?
MEL...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR YOU...
...TO GO LOOKING FOR THAT MINERAL
ALL RIGHT.

OF COURSE IT WASN'T ANY TROUBLE TO ME!
I KNOW VAITH AND THE OTHERS FEEL THE SAME WAY!
FERN, YOU MIGHT HAVE DIED WITHOUT THE MEDICINE!
WHY'S THAT?
!
!!!
IT'S NEVER ANY TROUBLE TO SAVE A FRIEND!
I can't believe you would even suggest such a thing!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...SYLTH WARNED ME NOT TO OPEN THAT BOOK.
BUT...
...I FELT LIKE IT MIGHT CONTAIN A CLUE AS TO WHY SYLTH DISAP-PEARED.
HE LEFT US...
...WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.
SYLTH...
—PROBABLY DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME ANYMORE.
FERN!
YOU HAVE SUCH LITTLE FAITH IN THE MASTER WIZARD!

AND HE MUST BE THINKING OF YOU, WHEREVER HE IS.
THEN, RELAX! EVERY-THING IS FINE!
NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!

"AUGUST 5TH. I HID PLENTY OF PORN MAGAZINES IN GLENN'S BOOK-SHELF. LATER, I SAW SOMEONE GET A NOSEBLEED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME."
ha ha ha ha!
"HE LOOKED PRETTY CUTE."
"JULY 10TH. YUE WAS TAKING AN UNUSUALLY LONG NAP, SO I DID UP HIS HAIR."
Oh boy...

Episode 23

AH!

"OCTOBER 20TH. I GAVE FERN COOKIES WITH WASABI ON THEM. SOON HIS NOSE WAS BRIGHT RED AND HE WAS CRYING."
"IT GAVE ME GREAT SATISFACTION TO SEE SUCH A RARE SIDE OF HIM!"
Ha ha ha ha!

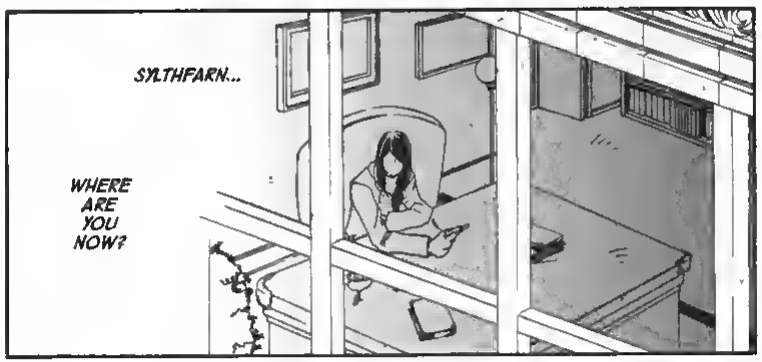
RIGHT NOW!!
Aw! Yue, calm down!
YOU HAD JUST BETTER STOP THAT RIGHT NOW

IT'S SO SYLTH-LIKE TO PUT A SPELL ON SOMETHING AS STUPID AS A SILLY DIARY.
Ha ha!
I HAD NO IDEA THE MASTER WIZARD WAS SUCH A JOKER.

!
"I MUST HURRY"...?
...ON THE LAST PAGE?
THERE'S ONLY ONE LINE...

IT MUST BE THE LAST THING HE WROTE BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT WAS HE DOING?
"I MUST HURRY."

!


SYLTHFARN...
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

ばたん
Sigh...

YOU'RE LUCKY, LOUIE.
I'M SO RELIEVED!
HOORAY! EXAMS ARE FINALLY OVER!
MY SCORES WERE JUST ABOVE THE CUTOFF. ★
YEAH, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MAKEUP EXAMS
DON'T WORRY, MEL! WE'LL FORM A TEAM THAT VANQUISHES MAKEUP EXAMS TOGETHER!
ALL RIGHT.
Is she serious?
HUH?
LOUIE IS VERY BRIGHT!
YOU ARE, TOO!

drift
THAT MAN!
IS HE OKAY?
stagger
stagger
He has a pulse
A-a-are you all right?!
Hello?
He's down!
YOU...
HUH?

WHY WOULD A FULL-GROWN MAN COLLAPSE FROM HUNGER?
munch munch
You sure surprised us.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT TRAVELING ...CAN BE VERY DRAINING, YOUNG LADY!
Oh, really?

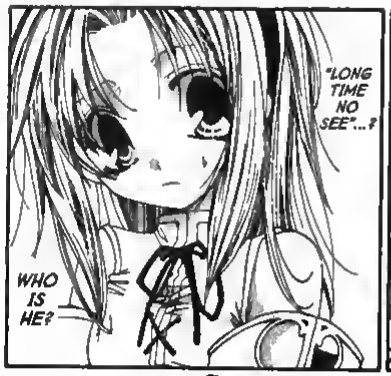
ARE YOU GOING TO STICK WITH THAT LINE ABOUT NOT KNOWING ME?
YES! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN MY LIFE!

THEN PERHAPS YOU HAVE A TWIN BROTHER?

ANYWAYS, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO SHOCKED.
I'M TALKING ABOUT SEEING YOU...
...of course.

OH, I GUESS I'M MISTAKEN AFTER ALL
SO SORRY ABOUT THAT

NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF, NO.
WHY?


"LONG TIME NO SEE"...?
WHO IS HE?

LONG TIME NO SEE...
EH?

NO! I DON'T KNOW HIM AT ALL!
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
MEL?

WOW!
YOU THREE SAVED MY LIFE!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, LADIES!

whisper
SUCH A SIMPLE, GENUINE MAN...
Yeah!
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S SO MUCH MORE FUN TO DO A BIG MAGIC TRICK!
EH?
MEL!
MEL CAN CREATE FLOWERS!
EH?
ME?
BY THE WAY, CAN ANY OF YOU PERFORM ANY MAGIC TRICKS?
COME ON! LET'S PUT ON A SHOW TOGETHER!
YES?
OH!
HOW WONDER-FUL!
YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!
HEY, EVERYONE!

I'M A MAGICIAN...
I GO BY THE NAME "TRAVELING ILLUSIONIST."
HEY, MISTER! WHAT DO YOU DO FOR LIVING?
"MISTER"?! I'M NOT SOME OLD MAN!
WHAT BOY?
BUT YOU LOOK IDENTICAL TO THIS BOY I MET A HALF YEAR AGO.
...WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME?
SO...
YOU KNOW WHAT?
AS A SLIGHT TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE, I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE SHOW.
I BELIEVE YOU WERE IN THE PROCESS OF PAYING BACK YOUR FIRST DEBT.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. CALM DOWN

Yay!!
OH, MAN!
HE'S CREATED SO MANY WATER OBJECTS...
...ALL AT THE SAME TIME!
THAT'S AMAZ-ING!
WOW!

YOU READY? ONE, TWO...
EH?!
OKAY!
HEY, GIRL!
IT'S YOUR TURN NOW!

WELCOME TO THE ILLUSIONIST KANARL'S...
...WATER SHOW!

HE CHANGED THE SHAPE IN A SPLIT SECOND?! SUCH AMAZING SKILL!!
THANK YOU!!

CLAP
CLAP CLAP

TALK ABOUT A HUGE SUCCESS!
THAT WAS GREAT!

MOMMY!
THAT PIGEON FELL DOWN AND DISAP-PEARED !!
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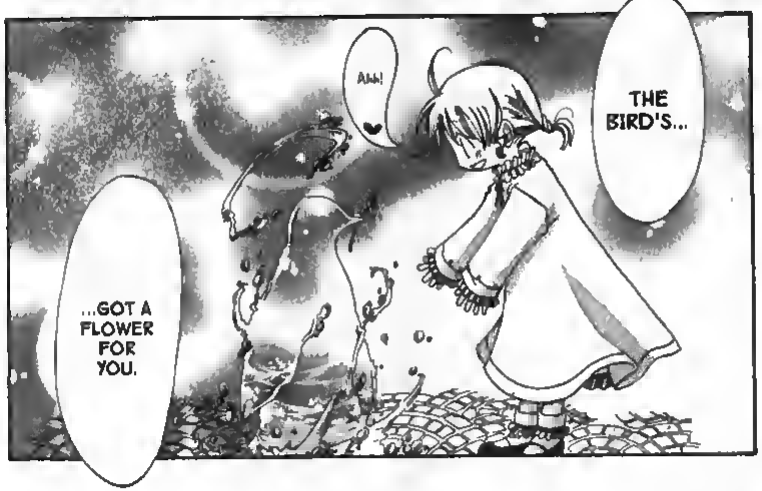
DON'T WORRY...
...SWEETIE


AH!
THE BIRD'S...
...GOT A FLOWER FOR YOU.

I'M SORRY! I HAVE TO GO!
MEL?!
WE SHOULD HEAD HOME, TOO.
.....
I'D BEST GET GOING NOW
HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOME TIME.
OH?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, YOUNG LADY?
grab
EXCUSE ME, MR. KANARL ...

THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH!
THE SNOW WAS A TREMEH-DOUS SUCCESS AND MY WALLET IS NOW FILLED! ♡
HEY, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!
I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU GUYS ENJOYED IT!
WE HAD FUN, TOO!
THE BOY I SPOKE OF EARLIER...
NE COULD USE MAGIC TO CREATE FLOWERS, TOO.
COULD HE BE...?!
EH?!
AND YOU DON'T GIVE OFF THE SAME VIBE OF BEING WISE BEYOND YOUR YEARS.
ALTHOUGH YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM, YOU'RE FAR MORE MELLOW.

WHAT KIND OF THINGS DID HE SAY TO YOU?
HMM, LET ME THINK.
HE TALKED SOME ABOUT HIS FOUR GOOD BUDDIES.
A TALL GUY WITH A BLACK COAT. SOME COCKY KID.
A KIND GUY WHO LOVES TEA— OH, AND ONE VERY GROUCHY GUY WITH LONG HAIR.
I WAS RIGHT!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE MASTER WIZARD!
SOUNDED TO ME LIKE HE WAS PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT THEM.
HE'D JUST LEFT THEM, AND WAS USED TO BEING WITH THEM ALL THE TIME.

HUH?
What's going on?
HE MAY BE SOMEONE I KNOW..
THAT BOY WHO LOOKED LIKE ME...
PLEASE TELL ME MORE ABOUT HIM!
...IN FACT, I'M ACTUALLY LOOKING...
...FOR HIM.
I ONLY HUNG OUT WITH HIM THAT ONE NIGHT, SO I'M NOT SURE IF I KNOW ANYTHING USEFUL
THAT'S ALL RIGHT! PLEASE TELL ME!
REALLY?
INTERESTING. I MET HIM IN A HOTEL NEAR THE BORDER ABOUT A HALF YEAR AGO.

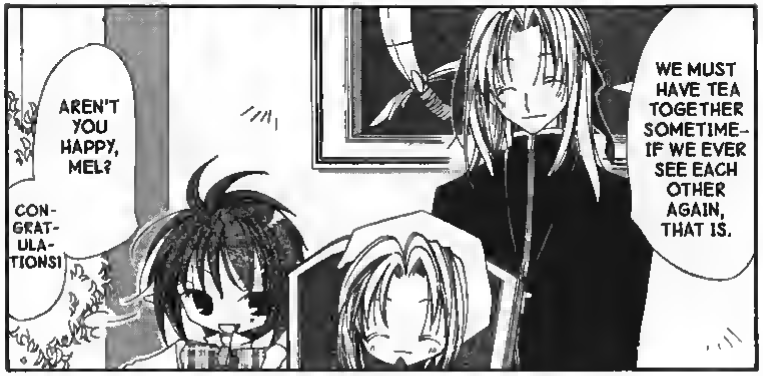
IF HE WAS...
...TRULY SO WORRIED ABOUT THEM...
...WHY DID HE LEAVE THEM?
BECAUSE HE HAD TO...
HE HAD TO LEAVE THEM WHERE THEY BELONGED.
HE HAD TO LEAVE THEM?

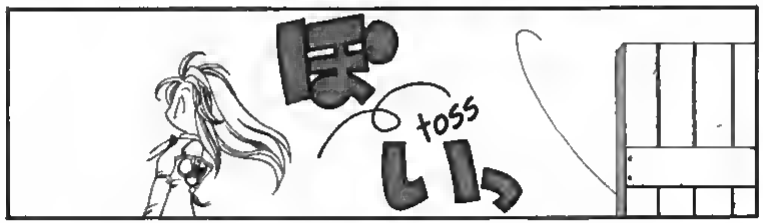
RIGHT.
BUT..
HIS ONLY REAL CHOICE WAS TO LEAVE THEM.
AND...
...HIS BEING WORRIED ABOUT THEM MEANT THAT HE STILL CARED ABOUT THEM. RIGHT?
OH!
HERE!
THIS IS A HAPPY FLOWER CALLED WHITE CLOVER!
Do You know it?
HE TAUGHT ME THIS MAGIC.
It's yours.
This is the only flower I can create though! Ha ha!

THANK YOU
NOW I UNDER-STAND.
I HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER SOON!
...ABOUT EVERYONE.
BUT...
THE MASTER WIZARD DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT ANYONE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TELLING ME.
PLEASE COME BACK TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PLEASE...
...EVERYONE IS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

YOU MUST BE MEL. NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.
I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
WHAT?!
PLEASE TAKE THESE ..
...AS A TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE.
EH?
BUT...
I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS...
DON'T HESITATE, GO RIGHT AHEAD.

IT IS BUT A MERE TOKEN OF OUR APPRE CIATION FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.
THANKS FOR HELPING US.


AREN'T YOU HAPPY, MEL?
CON-GRAT-ULA-TIONS!
WE MUST HAVE TEA TOGETHER SOMETIME-IF WE EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, THAT IS.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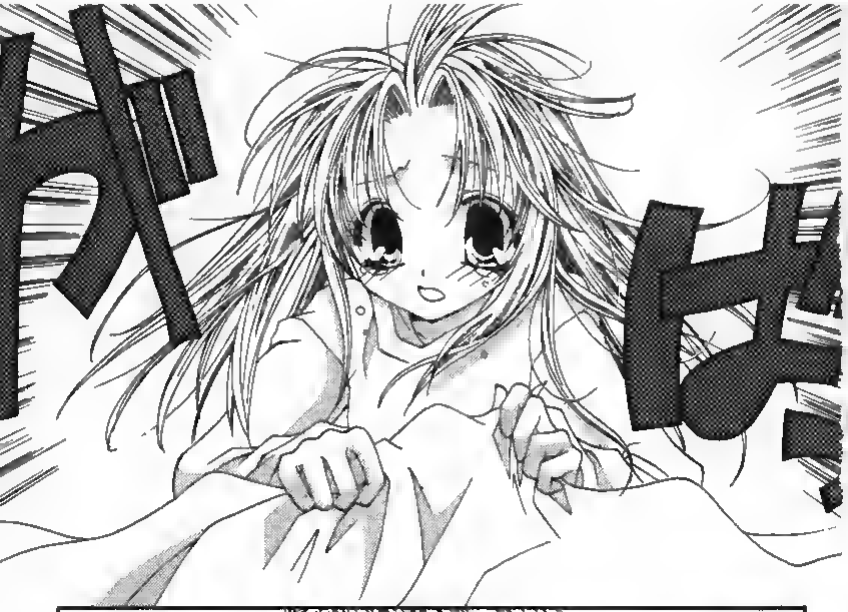
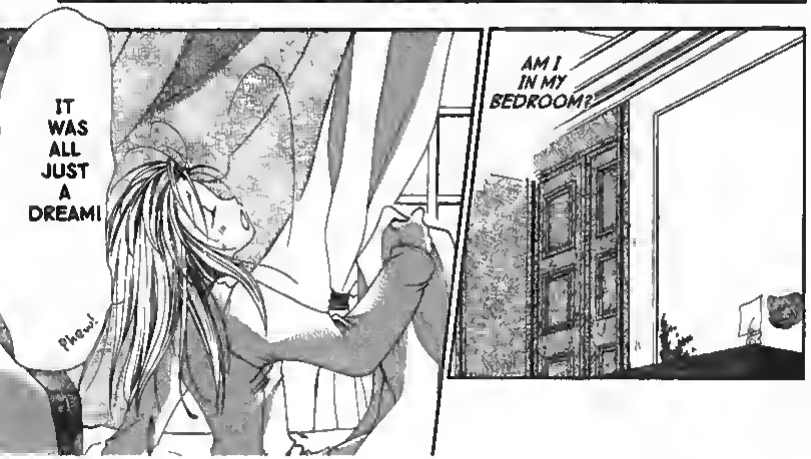
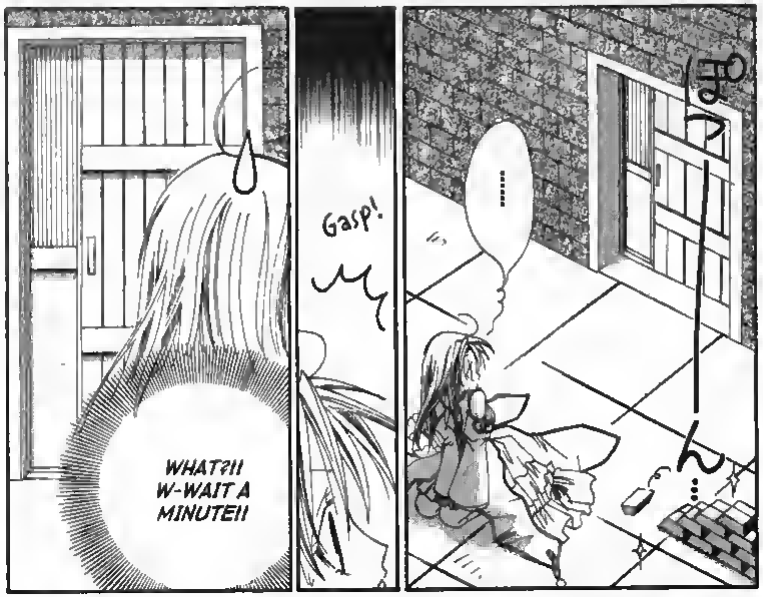
Episode.24



HUH?
.....


IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM!
Phew!
AM I IN MY BEDROOM?


WHAT?!! W-WAIT A MINUTE!!
Gasp!
.....
ぽつ

BUT...
I'M GLAD THE MASTER WIZARD CAME BACK...

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KICK ME OUT LIKE THAT!
sniff
BUT...

LEANNA.
HAND ME THAT TEACUP, PLEASE.
The one with the strawberry pattern.
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
BY THE WAY...
I'VE NOTICED YOU'VE BECOME MUCH MORE FEMININE LATELY.

AHI
THAT'S RIGHT!
I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT KIND OF DREAM YOU HAD.
YOU'D BEST JUST HURRY UP. AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO SEE SERAPHIA?
Take your clothes.
Thanks.

TODAY I HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT FOR TEA...
...WITH PRINCESS SERAPHIA.
It's so nice out!

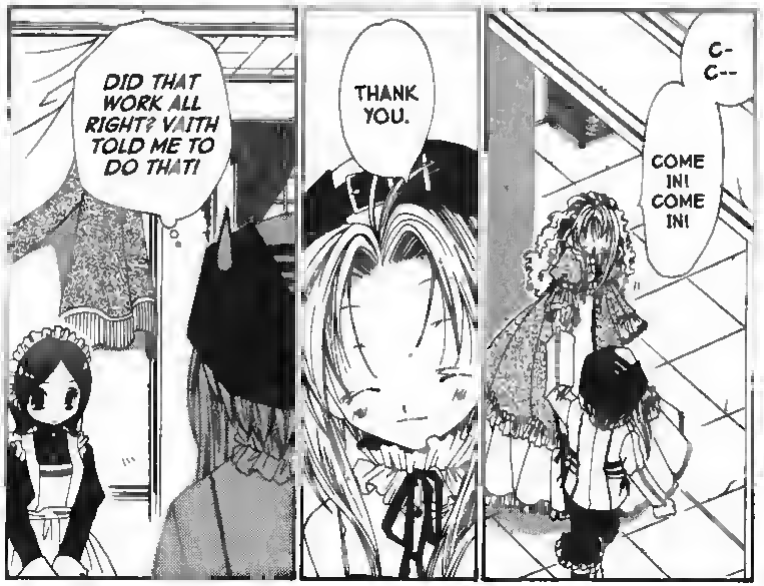
LEANNA?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS?
SYLTH...
PRINCESS? IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
Um...
WHAT?
...THAT SYLTH HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT STRANGE LATELY?
YOU DON'T THINK...

I LOOK THE SAME TO ME.
REALLY? HOW?
STRANGE I DON'T SENSE THAT MYSELF.
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU'VE GOT THIS EXTRAORDINARY AIR ABOUT YOU!
NOT TRUE YOU'VE BEEN LEARNING HOW TO COOK.
AND YOU'VE GREATLY IMPROVED YOUR TEA BREWING.
OH MY!
That's none of your business, Leanna!
...MASTER SYLTHFARN HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.
I WONDER IF...
PERHAPS THEN THAT IS HOW IT SHOULD BE

I MUST GET READY!
WELL...
SYLTH WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT!
YES!
IS EVERY-THING READY?
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS
!

LATELY, HE HASN'T APPEARED IN PUBLIC, NOT ONCE.
AND THEN THERE ARE THESE OTHER THINGS...
.. THAT SEEM, WELL, DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE
NO...I
What I mean is...
.. STRANGE ?
IS HE...
HE'S NEVER BEEN WHAT YOU'D CALL NORMAL.
YOU MEAN IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM BEFORE?

NEVER MIND. FORGET IT.
I MAY BE...
...MISTAKEN.
I...
PRIN-CESS?

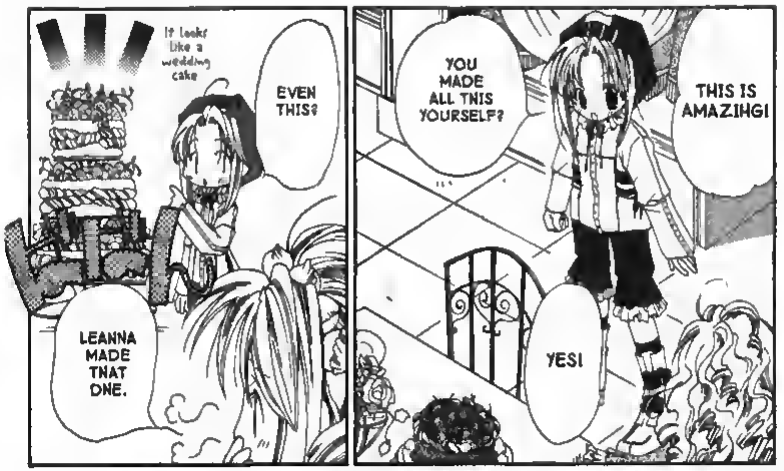

DID THAT WORK ALL RIGHT? VAITH TOLD ME TO DO THAT!
THANK YOU.
C-C--
COME IN! COME IN!

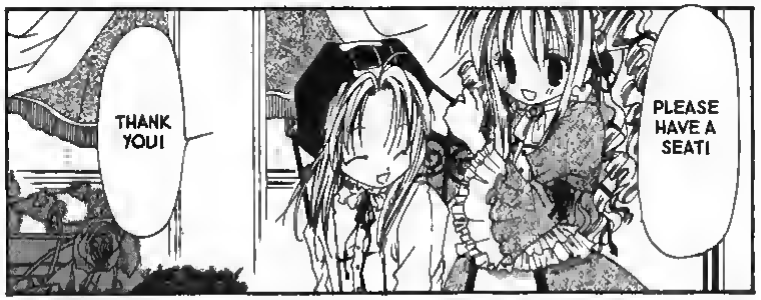
N-NOTNING.
...? IS SOMETNING WRONG?
LEANNA.
WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT YOU?
THINK NOTHING OF IT.

はあ
SYLTH!
HELLO THERE.
IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO JOIN YOU HERE THIS AFTER-NOON...
...MY PRINCESS.

PLEASE CHERISH HER.
.....?
BUT OF COURSE.
HOW IS HE STRANGE?
MASTER SYLTHFARN...
WOW!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ACTING STRANGE.
SILLY PRINCESS...

OH!
SYLTH!
UM...
ALL RIGHT.
PLEASE JOIN OUR PRINCESS.
IT'S NOTHING. REALLY!
UH, WAIT!
YES?
ABOUT MY PRIN-CESS...


It looks like a wedding cake
EVEN THIS?
LEANNA MADE THAT ONE.
YOU MADE ALL THIS YOURSELF?
THIS IS AMAZING!
YES!


THANK YOU!
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT!

I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY IT!
I MADE STRAWBERRY JELLY, TOO.

AS I THOUGHT, FERN AND VAITH ARE TOTALLY USELESS.
SYLTH, HAVE YOU BEEN BUSY WITH YOUR WORK LATELY?
WELL, YES. FORTUNATELY, I HAVE YUE TO HELP ME.
SO I'M FINE.
Ha ha.
INDEED, THE PRINCESS IS MORE ADULT THAN THEM.
IT'S HARD TO PICTURE THEM EVER BEING MATURE.
THEY'RE SO CHILDISH...
...those two.

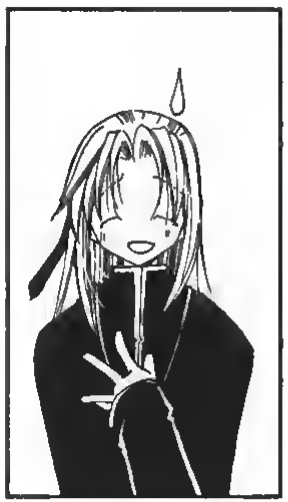
SYLTH?
THIS FLOWER...
WHAT?
REMEM-BER?
IT'S THE FLOWER THAT YOU GAVE ME THE VERY FIRST TIME WE MET...

WAY BACK THEN, YOU GAVE ME A FLOWER.
OH, I WAS STILL ONLY A SELFISH CRYBABY WITH NO SENSE OF MY SOCIAL STATION.
WHEN I MET YOU FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME...
ONE DAY EVEN A CRYBABY LIKE YOU WILL BLOSSOM INTO A KIND AND COLLECTED WOMAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU, PRINCESS. A FLOWER OVERFLOWING WITH PETALS LIKE YOUR EYES OVERFLOWING WITH TEARS...
I DON'T KNOW!
AND YET I MUST ANSWER!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
!

THANK GOOD-NESS.
I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D RECALLED MISTAKENLY.
LET'S HAVE OUR TEA.
DID I ANSWER CORRECTLY?

I KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT...



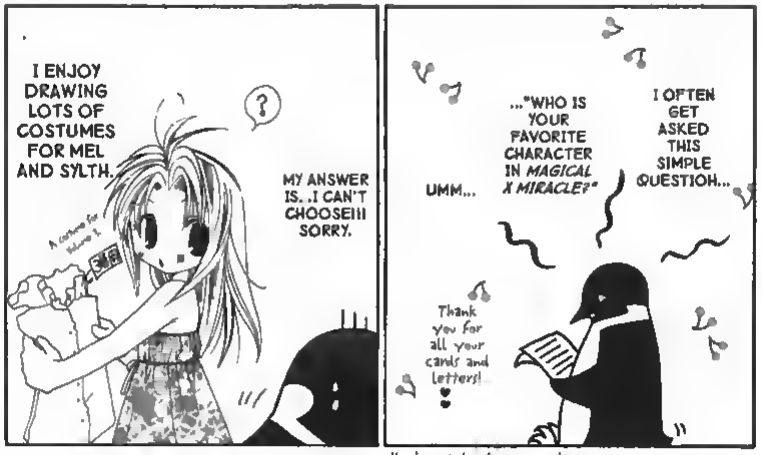
"AND ALL THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE, AS YOU GROW..."
"I WILL BRING YOU THIS FLOWER WHENEVER YOU CAN'T STOP CRYING."
SURELY SYLPH WOULD NEVER FORGET ABOUT THAT.
AND I WOULD NEVER FORGET ABOUT IT, EITHER.
BUT THEN... WHO IS HE?
Continued in Volume 4

Merleawe's clothes from the cover.

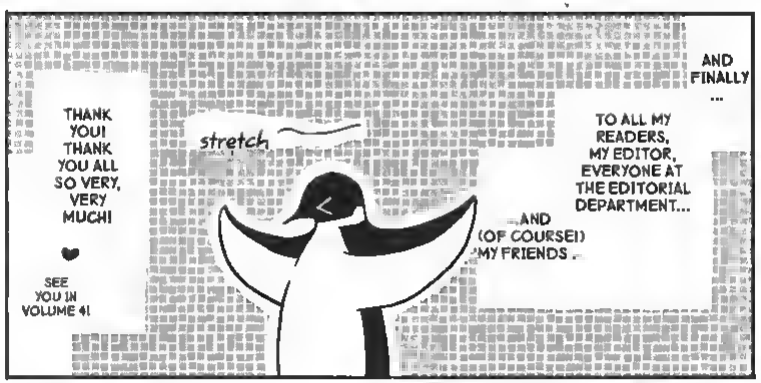
Postscript

Magical ✕ Miracle

THIS IS ALREADY THE THIRD VOLUME OF MY COMIC! I AM SO HAPPY!
sob sob sob
HELLO, EVERYONE
I'M YUZU MIZUTAHI
Uh, okay, this looks kind of creepy
THANK YOU!
bow
bow
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED ME GET HERE! THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!
Hi!


I ENJOY DRAWING LOTS OF COSTUMES FOR MEL AND SYLTH.
?
MY ANSWER IS...I CAN'T CHOOSE!!! SORRY.
UMM...
..."WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER IN MAGICAL X MIRACLE?"
I OFTEN GET ASKED THIS SIMPLE QUESTION...
Thank you for all your cards and letters!

He loves tricking people.


AND FINALLY ...
THANK YOU! THANK YOU ALL SO VERY, VERY MUCH!
SEE YOU IN VOLUME 4!
stretch
TO ALL MY READERS, MY EDITOR, EVERYONE AT THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT...
...AND (OF COURSE!) MY FRIENDS.

MY WEBSITE → HTTP://MIZYUZ.COOL.NE.JP

My Daily Dilemma (continued)

Cherry-chan and I have such totally different taste (laugh).

Seraphia

height → 126cm

hair → Platinum Blond

eyes → Zenith Blue

blood type → A

My Daily Dilemma

NOW I PROMISE THIS WILL BE THE LAST STORY ABOUT MY HAIR.
bow
HELLO! I'M YUZU MIZU-TANI.
My favorite salon doesn't really have a barber pole
SO I OFTEN FEEL THE NEED TO CHANGE MY HAIR STYLE.
I SO VERY EASILY TIRE OF MY HAIR STYLES.
Look how long my hair is!
BUT JUST AS I EXPECTED...
I HAD LONG, LONG HAIR WHILE I WAS WORKING ON VOLUME TWO.
Hair Salon
...I WENT STRAIGHT TO THE STYLIST THE VERY MOMENT VOLUME TWO WENT TO PRESS.
Hello?
UGH! I CAN'T TAKE THIS HAIR ANY-MORE!

Since I had promised to grow my hair out, I knew I had to wait at least until volume two was published.

MAY I HELP YOU?

Yue

height → 178cm

hair → Black

eyes → left:Red right:Silver

blood type → AB

Volume 4 Available
April 2007

In the Next Volume of...
Magical MiRaCLE
...TO TAKE OVER THIS COUNTRY WHERE SYLTHFARN DOESN'T EXIST.
IT WOULD BE SO EASY FOR ME...

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